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Hafa Adai!

75¢

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JON PEREZ
The Commonwealth Elections Commission meets for the last time before counting the votes after last Tuesday's general elections at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

It is Torres-Palacios with a huge margin of victory

» Sablan easily defeats Demapan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

In an excruciatingly slow count that lasted more than 10 hours, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and his running-mate, Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), emerged the winner of the 2018 general election, defeating by a huge margin the independent tandem of former governor Juan N. Babauta and former Education commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, according to the Commonwealth Election Commission's official tabulation of votes yesterday.

See VICTORY on Page 4

'TP's victory is NMI's own'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres claims that his and his running-mate's victory is also a victory for the Commonwealth people, with the GOP bets aiming to continue the economic gains the CNMI has gone through in the last four years.

Torres earned a full four-year mandate after he and lieutenant governor-elect Senate Arnold I.

See TP on Page 4

PSS eyes re-opening in early Dec.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System announced yesterday a target re-opening date of Dec. 3 on Saipan and Nov. 26 on Tinian.

In a video message posted on the agency's social media page, interim

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Kilili to seek more help for recovery

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) will be using his experience in the U.S. House of Representatives to solicit more aid for the Commonwealth's recovery efforts.

Typhoon Mangkhut pummeled Rota last September. Super Typhoon Yutu wreaked havoc on Saipan and Tinian last month. Both typhoons wreaked havoc on the CNMI and caused catastrophic damage.

Sablan, based on the certified and official tally of the Commonwealth Election Commission, garnered 9,150 out of the 14,349 votes cast against the 5,199 obtained by challenger Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan).

Almost all election districts went

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INSIDE

NATION
The most destructive wildfire in California history is blamed for at least 48 deaths.
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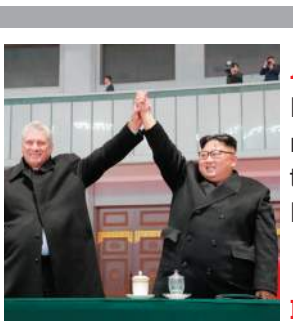

ASIA
Kim Jong Un has a lot riding on his promises to boost the North Korea's economy.
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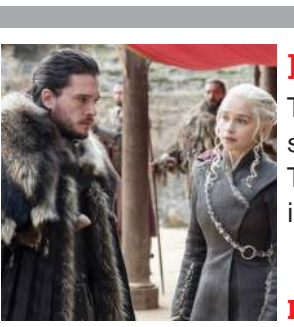

LIFE & STYLE
The eighth and last season of "Game of Thrones" is returning in April 2019.
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Local

Bank of Guam donates $100,000 to Yutu relief

Joaquin Cook, third from left, Bank of Guam interim president and chief executive officer, presents a check for $100,000 to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, center, yesterday at the Bank of Guam branch in Garapan, in support of Super Typhoon Yutu relief efforts. Others in photo are, from left, Frank Atalig, Bank of Guam senior vice president/chief financial officer; CNMI lieutenant governor-elect Arnold Palacios; first lady Diann Torres; Frances Borja, Bank of Guam board member; and Marcie Tomokane, Bank of Guam CNMI regional manager. The $100,000 would reportedly be distributed among different relief organizations in the CNMI. ERWIN ENCINARES

Bank of Guam's interim president and chief executive officer Joaquin P.L.G. Cook met with the bank's Saipan team yesterday, saw the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu, and donated $100,000 to benefit the community.

"Viewing the devastating effects of Yutu on our community tugs on the collective hearts of the [Bank of Guam] family," Cook said.

"All of our employees from throughout Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau, and San Francisco join together to support and uplift the spirits of the people of the CNMI who are facing incalculable challenges as they recover and rebuild from Yutu.

"It is at times like these that the primary mission becomes helping those who need it most, and our Bank of Guam family is prepared to assist in all the ways we can," he added.

Since the passing of Yutu, Bank of Guam has contributed $15,000 to the Ayuda Foundation to airlift medical supplies for 10,000 patients.

The bank has also established a "Typhoon Yutu Relief" fund account, offered loan deferments for CNMI residents, and provided its services for coin drives in support of the CNMI community. ***(PR)***

Absentee votes might tip scale for municipal council, BOE

Absentee voters may yet tip the scales for the Board of Education and the municipal councils of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

About 2,000 absentee votes have yet to be counted and current municipal council topnotchers on Rota and Tinian only have small leads over their competitors.

Rota Municipal Council candidate Lucia S. Manglona leads the pack with 111 votes, while Alexander A. Apatang and Anthony W. Barcinas are tied only a couple paces behind Manglona with 99 votes apiece. In fourth for the Rota Municipal Council seat is Simeon E. Taisacan, with 94 votes, while George O. Hocog comes in last with 76 votes.

According to unofficial tallies, Manglona. Barcinas, and Apatang lead the race while Taisacan follows closely with a five-vote difference.

Tinian and Aguiguan Municipal Council leader Esteven SN King Jr. leads with 605 votes as Thomasa Rita P. Mendiola's 602 votes trails close behind. Third in the race is Patrick A. Manglona with 556 votes to take the third seat.

Nikita P. Mendiola follows with over 200 votes behind King, while Ervin C. Cruz Jr. and Joseph A. Borja Jr. follow.

Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation bet Debra Lynn T. Camacho's 6,257 votes leads Antonia M. Tudela's 5,767 votes and Ana D. Castro's 5,264 votes. Thomas S. Muna's 4,644 votes conclude the candidates running for the three municipal seats for the islands.

With only one seat for the BOE slot, Andrew L. Orsini's 4,681 votes lead James M. Rayphand's 4,429 votes by a margin of over 200 votes. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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'Parental influence kept to a minimum'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Similar to the independent streak of previous elections' new voters, this election's first-time voters said their choices at the polls were made with little to no influence from their parents.

As early as 8:30am Tuesday morning, a handful of young faces showed up at the Garapan Roundhouse to cast their votes in the 2018 elections.

Devyn Flores, 20, who describes herself as a full-blooded Chamorro, noted that the experience was new and eye-opening. "…You get to learn the [election] process as you grow older," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

While he noted that his vote was his decision to make, he said his parents' recommendations were taken into consideration when he cast his vote. In the end, though, he believes that how he feels about a candidate plays a large part in his choices.

"…They pushed me toward whoever they think is best for the islands," he said. "In my eyes, I see it as me voting for who I feel for. If my parents want me to vote for somebody specific, it really is up to me [to make the final decision]," he said. "I think about it, but then again, it is really how I feel about the candidate."

Flores sees himself also voting in the 2020 elections.

Timothy Retirado, 18, believes the 2018 election is one of the "most active" he has seen. "…We have a lot of candidates this year and many people, despite the typhoon, were still campaigning. I see a lot of people trying to make a difference this year," the first-time voter noted.

While his parents were ineligible to participate in the elections, and being the only member of his family that is eligible to cast his vote this 2018, Retirado noted that his family had minimal influence on his vote.

"I have been observing the candidates. [My parents] do make suggestions as to who is a good candidate, who is good for the people of the islands, and they are more informed in this than I am," he said. "I [voted for] who I also believe would make a difference to the island."

Kristine Dawayen, 20, opted to vote early. While her experience is different compared to those who chose to vote at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, she had a pleasant first experience at the polls.

"[The] experience was quite well, I did the early voting, so everything went smoothly," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "The [Commonwealth Election Commission staff] assisted the voters well and gave clear instructions. …[Casting my vote] was easy, plus they provided everything we needed for voting."

Dawayen, a student at the Northern Marianas College, said her vote was decided through the influence of people and conversations about the candidates.

"My friends also have recommendations and I ask people around about the candidates," she said, adding that she also takes into consideration what the candidates offer the islands.

"My parents didn't say much on who I [should] vote for, though they gave me insights about them, plus they gave me the free will to choose a candidate," she said.

Stay-away law stymies media coverage

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A law that dictates the minimum distance non-voting individuals have to be from a polling station is silent on how it applies to the media—a lack that proved problematic at a polling station in Garapan last Tuesday, particularly since it created a minor misunderstanding between the Office of the Attorney General and the media.

Reporters were directed to stay at least 300 feet away from the Garapan Roundhouse at the Garapan Central Park, despite displaying their Commonwealth Election Commission-issued media passes.

An OAG representative assigned to the Garapan Roundhouse asserted that the statute includes the media, as he showed *Saipan Tribune* a group discussion of OAG higher-ups directing representatives to include media personnel.

In a phone call to the OAG around 9:49am, it was learned that the rule was the result of the structure of the Garapan Roundhouse, which housed the polls.

The OAG representative at the Garapan Roundhouse noted that it was the first time to ever use the facility for an election and the facility is not enclosed and poses a possible problem since voters were visible at a certain angle.

Around 10:40am Tuesday, assistant attorney general Charles Brasington arrived to clarify the issue. He noted that, as long as the media stays within the entrance area, there would be no issue.

Brasington further reiterated that taking pictures of ballots and people voting were prohibited.

According to poll staff at the Garapan Roundhouse, 1,521 voters cast their votes in the facility from 8am to 2pm.

Apatang on Camacho: No bad blood

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

With the unofficial results suggesting a landslide victory for incumbent Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, he assured that there is no bad blood between him and political rival Ramon "RB" Camacho.

Apatang told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that once the elections are over, there would be no more sour relations between the two.

Saipan Tribune's unofficial tallies of the Saipan mayoral race in the 2018 elections point toward a commanding lead for the incumbent Saipan mayor over Camacho with 7,616 votes, a wide 5,165 difference against his lone rival, who garnered 2,451 votes.

The unofficial tallies did not include absentee votes but, based on the unofficial tallies, Apatang dominated Camacho in all five electoral districts. The incumbent mayor tripled Camacho's votes on average, minus the absentee voters.

"There are no hard feelings here. The election season is over, the political issue is over. Let's move forward together and work together for the betterment of our people here on Saipan," he said, adding that whatever the outcome, he looks forward to working with Camacho.

"Thank you to all my supporters, all who believed in me and gave me another chance to work with the people of Saipan," he said in an impromptu victory speech.

Apatang noted that one of his main goals is to finish a new animal shelter, using money from a local bill that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had signed, appropriating about $180,000 to his office to supplement Federal Emergency Management Agency funding in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu.

That's in addition to the home-numbering system project and the street naming that's assigned to Apatang's office

"The governor and the Legislature gave us about $80,000 to start the home-numbering system project and the street naming," he said. "Those are the two major things I am looking forward to finishing within the near future."

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YUTU UPDATES

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Fueling stations

Mobil Oil Marianas fueling stations are open with updated operating hours and accepted payment methods:

- Beach Road Garapan: 24 hours, credit card accepted
- Kagman: 24 hours, credit card accepted
- Sadog Tasi: 24 hours, credit card accepted
- Tanapag: 6am to 10pm, cash only
- Middle Road: 7am to 7pm, credit card accepted
- Chalan Kiya: 7am to 7pm, credit card accepted
- Susupe: 7am to 7pm, credit card accepted
- Chalan Piao: 7am to 7pm, cash only

Free water bottles

The CNMI government will be giving out 5-gallon water bottles at the following distribution sites:

- San Antonio Basketball Court, 10am-11am
- Koblerville Youth Center, 12pm-1pm
- Dandan Middle School, 2pm-3pm

There is a limit of one 5-gallon water bottle per family.

TP

From Page 1

Palacios (R-Saipan) defeated the independent tandem of former governor Juan N. Babauta and Dr. Rita A. Sablan, whose partnership also earned the backing of the local Democratic Party.

The GOP bets earned a total of 8,922 votes against the 5,420 garnered by the Babauta-Sablan team, for a winning margin of 3,502.

Of the more than 18,000 registered voters, a total of 14,322 votes were cast.

"Today, progress moves forward for the Marianas. It moves forward because of you. It moves forward because you believe in progress, a brighter future, and a stronger Marianas," said Torres in a statement last night.

"On behalf of lieutenant governor-elect Palacios and his family, thank you, *un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase yan ghilisou*…thank you for all of your support."

Torres thanked all people from all sides of the political aisle and to all who voted in the election. "Whether you were a Republican, an independent, or a Democrat, you made your voice heard by voting for the direction you want for your islands."

He also thanked the local GOP.

"Remember always that we are one Marianas, and we will make sure that we continue our progress together so that you and your families can live prosperously. This is your victory."

Continue with progress

He said that he and Palacios would work harder to continue the economic progress of the Commonwealth, to invest in education and workforce development, to improve the healthcare system, and to improve safety in villages.

Torres said they would also focus on the CNMI's recovery efforts from two devastating typhoons: Typhoon Mangkhut on Rota and Super Typhoon Yutu on Saipan and Tinian.

"We will continue to lead our recovery efforts so that every person, regardless of income or citizenship, can feel a sense of normalcy again. Our short-term and long-term recovery efforts will remain our top priority. Please continue to stay patient and resilient, Marianas. Assistance continues to come in from partners near and far."

He also thanked government employees and private sector partners.

"This is a great day for the people of the CNMI. It has been a long day, a long battle, and a long election season. I want to congratulate all of those who have been voted in by the people. It is a process that we respect, and we are just blessed."

Torres said the support shown by the people was very humbling on their part. "Arnold and I are blessed to be given this greatest honor to guide our people for the next four years. We are very humbled."

VICTORY

From Page 1

Using the political slogan of "True Progress. Real Action" the well-oiled political machinery of the NMI Republican Party's Torres and Palacios demolished the Democratic Party backed-Babauta-Sablan team in all precincts on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, the Northern Islands, in early votes, and in the absentee ballots.

The Torres-Palacios team obtained 8,922 votes, while the Babauta-Sablan tandem managed to get 5,420 votes—for a lead of 3,502.

At the age of 38, Torres is still the nation's youngest governor. With the overwhelming victory, he is going to lead in the next four years a Commonwealth that's still reeling from a typhoon and a super typhoon's massive destruction.

As then-lieutenant governor, Torres assumed the chief executive's position when former governor Eloy S. Inos passed away in December 2015.

When CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez announced the results for precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and the early voting early Wednesday morning, Torres-Palacios was already a sure winner, with 7,053 votes against Babauta-Sablan's 4,293 or a margin of 2,760.

At that stage, it was statistically improbable for the Babauta-Sablan team to overtake the big lead of Torres-Palacios as there were about a little over 2,000 votes that remained to be counted—the Rota election votes, Rota early voting, and absentee ballots.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Imd-MP), who sought a sixth term, handily defeated Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) of the GOP by receiving 9,150 votes against Demapan's 5,199—a margin of 3,951.

When the results from the tabulation of votes from precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and early voting, Sablan was already a sure winner by getting a high number of votes of 7,335 compared to Demapan's 4,024—a wide margin of 3,311.

Demapan only prevailed on Tinian, but it was still a close fight, 497-467.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan, who ran unopposed for the same position, obtained 11,366 votes.

Voters overwhelmingly supported the retention on the bench of CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Castro obtained 11,644 "yes" votes and only 1,788 "no" votes, while Kim-Tenorio got 11,188 "yes" votes and 2,044 "no" votes.

In the Saipan mayoral race, Saipan Mayor David Apatang (Republican) received 8,492 votes to easily beat Ramon "RB" Camacho (independent), who received 2,741 votes.

Apatang won in all precincts and in the early voting and absentee ballots.

In the Tinian mayoral race, Edwin Palacios Aldan (Republican) defeated independent Henry Hofschneider San Nicolas, 879-523.

In Rota's crowded mayoral race, corruption charges were not enough for voters not to re-elect Mayor Efraim Manglona Atalig, who got 576 votes against second placer, independent Julie Marie Ogo Manglona, who obtained 487 votes. Third placer, Steve King Mesngon had only 345 votes.

Polls closed at 7pm. The tallies were announced at past 5am on Wednesday. That means it took more than 10 hours of waiting before the results were announced.

CEC, under the leadership of board chair pro tem Jesus I. Sablan and executive director Julita A. Sablan, did a different approach in the tabulation of votes by announcing the results of all precincts, except Rota's votes, Rota's early votes, and absentee ballots, all at the same time at 6am yesterday.

Many people monitoring the tabulation had been wondering as to why the results of per-precinct counting were being announced when it was already past 5am.

The traditional CEC's policy had been tabulating each precinct, then announcing the results.

Under the previous policy, monitoring the results would be thrilling as it would keep mostly everyone guessing until the tabulation of votes from the last one or two precincts.

The ballots from Tinian was taken by a Department of Public Safety boat to Saipan. The ballots arrived at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe for tabulation at 12:55pm Tuesday.

CEC executive director Villagomez announced Tuesday 10:20pm that they would now start tabulating the ballots from all precincts except Rota's.

Guam Election Commission lent to Saipan Tuesday morning one tabulating machine at the request of CEC as CEC's tabulating machines got wet during Super Typhoon Yutu's fury, according to Villagomez.

CEC used three tabulation machines, all from Guam. The two other machines were given by Guam to CEC last year.

When asked about the long delay, Villagomez said the tabulating machines had something to do with the delays. She said one machine was not compatible with the two other machines.

"We borrowed this one but it does not match," she said, pointing to one of three machines.

Villagomez said the turnout looks pretty good. After the executive completed reading the final total tally yesterday at 6:10pm, she received applause from people and CEC directors and staff.

The board then held a meeting where the directors certified the election results.

It capped the biggest yet one of the most difficult elections in CNMI history, considering many areas, including polling places, still have no power. The election was generally peaceful, but throughout the campaign period it was marred by mudslinging, particularly on social media.

PSS

From Page 1

Education commissioner Glenn Muña announced the resumption of classes on Saipan starting Dec. 3 and on Tinian starting Nov. 26, despite previously announcing that schools might take two to eight weeks to recover from Super Typhoon Yutu.

He reiterated in the video that both dates are only target dates.

On Tinian, classes at the Tinian Elementary School, Tinian Jr/Sr High School, and Tinian Headstart are set to resume on Nov. 26, 2018.

On Saipan, where some schools sustained heavy damage almost to the point of complete destruction, Muña noted a target date of Dec. 3.

"My promise to you is that, as soon as a school is deemed safe for our children, classes will resume," said Muña.

He noted that the school calendar for both islands would be adjusted to ensure that seniors would graduate on time.

Muña said that schools, once operational, would be open half-day only, with some schools having double sessions to catch up. Double sessions of classes are divided into morning and afternoon sessions.

While some schools would require relocation and consolidation with other schools, Muña noted that a possible setup would be to hold morning and afternoon classes for two different schools each.

Muña said that PSS is coordinating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to procure temporary structures capable of providing a classroom for campuses that were heavily damaged.

"The work to get the school up and running before the deadline is going to be challenging, so we support those willing to lend a hand," Muña said.

To those interested helping PSS, visit the PSS HR office on Capitol Hill to sign a volunteer form. "…It has been just over a couple of weeks since the storm passed and already there are so many activities to draw hope from. The smiles, the acts of kindness, the generosity, the collaboration, the volunteerism, and the sense of community far outshines the destruction caused by Yutu," Muña said.

KILILI

From Page 1

to Sablan and he only lost in Tinian, which Demapan won by just 30 votes, 497-467.

Sablan, whose re-election bid may have been helped after U.S. Democrats regained the majority in the House, said, "I will use everything I have learned over the last 10 years in Congress to make sure the people of the Marianas get all the help we need for our recovery."

He said his House of Representatives colleagues have already assured him of their support. "I have already received assurance of support from my Democratic colleagues who will be the majority in the new, 116th U.S. House of Representatives."

Sablan added that he is humbled by the trust given him again by the people of the CNMI. "It is humbling that our people have, once again, given me their trust to represent them in U.S. Congress."

"Thank you very much to everyone who gave me their vote. And to see how committed our community is to exercising their democratic right—even in the middle of disaster recovery—is one more example of 'Marianas Strong,'" said Sablan, who caucuses with the Democrats.

Gracious in defeat

Demapan congratulated Sablan for his win and added that, despite their camp falling short on their bid, they put up a good campaign. "The votes cast in [Tuesday's] election have been tallied. And, despite the incredible efforts put forth by our campaign committee and supporters, we came up short.

"I congratulate Congressman Kilili on his re-election and wish him all the best in his next term. I entered the congressional race recognizing that I would be the underdog candidate, and I know that my team and I did everything we could have done," he added.

Demapan said that now that campaign and election is over, "I am looking forward to spending more time with my wife and children. They have been my partners in public service these past four years and I can't thank them enough."

He thanked all the people who helped him during the campaign and all who voted for him. "I would like to thank my campaign team and supporters for their hard work and votes of confidence. It has been a tremendous blessing to take this journey with them by my side."

Demapan has a few months left on his term in the 20th CNMI Legislature. "While I will be concluding my term in the Commonwealth Legislature, I remain committed to being a part of the solution in our community and in our Commonwealth."

Environmental issues in next Congress' agenda

Environmental issues will get serious attention when the House of Representatives convenes in January under a new Democratic majority.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is already working with the likely chairman of the Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Oceans, Rep. Jared Huffman of California, on their agenda for the next two years.

Sablan is a member of the subcommittee.

One item at the top of the two legislators' list is Sablan's legislation that bans the sale of shark fins nationwide. Sablan introduced the bill, which is modeled after Commonwealth law, in the 114th Congress and then handed it over to Republican Ed Royce in the 115th Congress to give it a better chance of success in the Republican majority House.

"We have 259 cosponsors to H.R. 1456, more than enough votes to pass the bill in the House," Sablan said.

However, even with Royce's sponsorship and what Sablan describes as strong bipartisan support, he said the Republican leadership in the House refuses to move the bill.

"Mr. Huffman and I think that will change, once the new Democratic House gets started," said Sablan. "Democratic leadership is going to be much more respectful of what the rank-and-file membership wants, rather than controlling everything from the top down."

In the current Congress Republican leadership has brought more "closed rules" to the floor than ever before in U.S. history. A closed rule means that no one—Republican or Democrat—can offer an amendment. As a result, there can be much less compromise, bipartisan legislation.

In his letter to Sablan mapping out their agenda, Huffman said the people of the Marianas "should be proud that they had the foresight and the political will to protect shark populations in the waters of the Marianas."

Huffman, a former member of the California Assembly, co-authored legislation there that banned the sale, trade, and possession of shark fins in California. He is also an original co-sponsor of H.R. 1456.

While the bill bans the commercial sale of shark fins, it protects noncommercial subsistence use.

Environmental agenda

The two veteran legislators are also interested in keeping the oceans healthy. "Through our leadership, we can work to keep fisheries sustainable and keep up the success of a strong Magnuson Act," Huffman said.

The Magnuson Act sets up regional fisheries boards, such as the Western Pacific Fisheries Council, to regulate fishing around the United States and maintain healthy stocks of fish.

As part of planned increased oversight by House committees, Sablan wants to get a long-overdue management plan for fisheries and other uses in the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

"This was supposed to be in place two years after President Bush created the monument," Sablan said. "Then the Obama administration did nothing and now the Trump administration is sitting on it. People in the Marianas are fed up with the delay."

Another area of concern for both Huffman and Sablan is the impact of climate change. Huffman represents areas of California that were hard hit by wildfires over the last years. And the Marianas is just beginning to recover from Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu.

"Increasing temperatures in the atmosphere and in the ocean are having a negative effect on us all," Sablan said. "The accelerated intensification of Yutu and of Hurricane Michael that hit Florida last month happens because the ocean is warmer and storms rapidly pick up energy as they pass over those waters." ***(PR)***

Sablan, Scott pledge to fix Wagner-Peyser

Now that Democrats will control the U.S. House of Representatives, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is confident that the Marianas will be included in the Wagner-Peyser jobs grant.

Sablan and Rep. Robert Scott (D-Virginia), the incoming chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, have already agreed in an exchange of letters in October to make this fix part of their agenda for the 116th Congress.

"Republicans blocked the inclusion of the Marianas in Wagner-Peyser in 2014, when the law was last re-authorized," Sablan said. "Now that Democrats will control the agenda, the Marianas will be included. I have the chairman's agreement."

The Wagner-Peyser program is part of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and WIOA is up for reauthorization in 2019.

"Please know that you have my commitment to work with you to make the Marianas an eligible entity for Wagner-Peyser Act assistance when Congress takes up the reauthorization of WIOA," Scott wrote Sablan on Oct. 22.

Scott also pledged "to explore other opportunities to increase and strengthen the U.S. workforce in the Marianas.

"I look forward to working with you on this issue and to build on the many education and labor issues that we have worked on over the last 10 years," he said.

As a 10-year veteran, Sablan is in line to be a chairman in the Education Committee and could very well have direct control of WIOA legislation himself.

The annual Wagner-Peyser grant, estimated at about $300,000, would provide skill assessment, career guidance, referrals to training for job seekers. Employers would benefit from services matching job requirements to job seeker experience and skills. ***(PR)***

Yutu posed no hindrance to voters

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the magnitude of Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation in the CNMI, Saipan voters still managed to show up in droves at several polling places last Tuesday.

Yutu, which made landfall in the CNMI three weeks ago, hit hardest the southern part of Saipan and left villages in Precinct 1 severely damaged. Villages in Precinct 1 include Koblerville, San Antonio, San Vicente, and Dandan.

Despite this, Precinct 1 voters did not hesitate to participate in the election. According to Herman P. Sablan, Precinct 1A and 1B-1 poll supervisor, this year's election was "interesting and a bit more complicated because we had the calamity that just took place and people are still struggling to recover, yet they still came out to vote."

As part of the election committee, Sablan said he and other staff are also still recovering but are making the effort to ensure that everything ran smoothly in their precincts.

"We too are still recovering but we also had to think of the logistics part of the election," he said.

Throughout election day, Sablan said the flow of people was a bit slow but consistent and no major altercations were reported.

"The flow of people was… slow but it was consistent… everybody was very peaceful," he said.

Babauta-Sablan camp election observer Frances Sablan did see minor altercations in the crowd of voters but election committee staff quickly resolved those.

Sablan said that whoever wins the election, there should be no hard feelings. "I hope that, at the end, we all just smile and enjoy the results regardless…I wish all the parties the best of luck," she said.

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MVA joins Japanese group in handing out relief aid

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority joined the Japanese community for another round of typhoon relief operations last Saturday afternoon, giving away Saipanda backpacks and food items at the basketball court in San Antonio.

The children's eyes lit up after each one got a Saipanda backpack, while the adults were pleased with the free Spam sushi, a local favorite, and other items.

The group distributed 500 Spam sushis provided by Furusato Restaurant, 200 bottles of water from H-Mart, 200 Saipanda backpacks from the MVA, and ramen noodles from Come Back Smile Saipan, or CBS Saipan, a group of Japanese residents on Saipan that has coalesced to provide community support after Super Typhoon Yutu hit Saipan and Tinian.

CBS Saipan had a Facebook page that they will update weekly on when their next relief drives are happening.

MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion extended his gratitude to Furusato Restaurant, H-Mart, and the whole CBS Saipan group "for their generosity and support of our local community."

"We thank the Japanese community for coming out like this in solidarity with the people of the CNMI. We are grateful," he said.

Last Nov. 3, Japanese nationals who have lived on Saipan for decades came together with their families to provide relief and fun to the community by making and distributing 4,000 pieces of castella balls, popularly known in Japan as baby castella, in the soccer pitch parking lot in Koblerville.

People line up to receive giveaways from the Japanese community and Marianas Visitors Authority at the San Antonio basketball court last Saturday afternoon. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. citizenship applicants take the oath of allegiance during a Veterans Day naturalization ceremony at the U.S. District Court of Guam on Nov. 13. JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

New citizens welcomed

By ALANA CHARGUALAF
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ASAN, Guam—It was a moment of great joy and celebration for the 50 individuals who became U.S. citizens during a special Veterans Day naturalization ceremony at the U.S. District Court of Guam in Hågatña last Nov. 13.

Hailing from China, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Philippines, South Korea and Vietnam, each new citizen made a lifelong pledge to bear faith and allegiance to the constitution and laws of America.

"Each of you chose to become an American, and each of you, as an American, has earned the right to call this country home, not just because you took an oath, but because you believe in the opportunity of freedom and the chance to be something greater," said Joint Region Marianas chief of staff Capt. Hans Sholley.

A handful of sailors attended the ceremony and were invited forward with Sholley by Magistrate Judge Joaquin Manibusan Jr. to help lead the new citizens in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

The sailors were there to support Naval Special Warfare Unit 1 Command master chief Matt Heinonen, whose wife Melina Heinonen was naturalized.

"It's very special, and I'm blessed to be American now," Melina Heinonen said. "I'm happy that all the military guys came, too. Just to be here was very emotional."

Heinonen himself expressed how honored he feels to be an American and to serve the country.

"It's a privilege to serve in the armed forces. It's also a privilege to be American," he said.

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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Monday, November 19, 2018 at 4pm*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CHCC Conference Room #3, Lower Navy Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (09/06/18)
will be issued when power is restored
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
- Settlement Agreement Regarding Social Worker Applicant
- Emergency license for Health Care Providers

VII. Director's Report
- Proposed Hearing for Dr. Willis & Theodore Parker postpone (for information only)

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Applications
B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

GRMC Lab obtains CAP accreditation

DEDEDO, Guam—The Guam Regional Medical City Laboratory has received accreditation from the College of American Pathologists. The Accreditation Committee of the College of American Pathologists awarded the accreditation to GRMC's Laboratory based on the results of a recent on-site inspection as part of the CAP accreditation programs.

The facility's director, Mohamad Alsabban, MD, was advised of this national recognition and congratulated for the excellence of the services being provided.

The U.S. government recognizes the CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program, begun in the 1960s, as being equal to or more stringent than the government's own inspection program.

GRMC's laboratory has been accredited by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, or CLIA, which regulates all laboratory testing (except research) performed on humans in the U.S., under the Centers for Medicare & Medicare Services.

During the CAP accreditation process, designed to ensure the highest standard of care for all laboratory patients, inspectors examine the laboratory's records and quality control of procedures. CAP inspectors also examine laboratory staff qualifications, equipment, facilities, safety program and record, and overall management.

"Our laboratory achieving the respected CAP accreditation and coming right on the heels of GRMC being fully and unconditionally re-accredited by The Joint Commission, is a testament to the hard work and professionalism of our staff," said president and COO Michael Cruz, MD. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free water bottles

The CNMI government will be giving out drinkable five-gallon water bottles today, Nov. 15, at the San Antonio basketball court, from 10am to 11am; at the Koblerville Youth Center, from 12pm to 1pm; and at Dandan Middle School, from 2pm to 3pm. There is a limit of one five-gallon water bottle per family. The bottles will be filled with potable water. ***(PR)***

Bank of Guam Thanksgiving hours

Bank of Guam announces the following holiday hours for Thanksgiving:

- Nov. 21, Wednesday: Closed at 3pm
- Nov. 22, Thursday: Closed
- Nov. 23, Friday: Closed
- Nov. 24, Saturday: Saturday branches open regular hours

Guam language commission meeting set

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno' *(Commission on Chamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam)* will hold its monthly meeting to Nov. 20, 2018, Tuesday, from 12:3pm to 3pm, at the Garden House (former Guam Museum) in the Plaza de Espana, Hagåtña. ***(PR)***

ATF to training at former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course

ASAN, Guam—The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives will conduct training from 8am to 5pm on Nov. 15 at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada, also known as Radio Barrigada.

This type of exercise allows for the use of blanks. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. ***(PR)***

UOG seeks noms for Palulap Award

The Faculty Senate of the University of Guam is accepting nominations for the Palulap Medallion Award. The Palulap Award is presented to a member of the community of Guam who has made extraordinary contributions to the protection and promotion of the fundamental academic principles of the University of Guam, including academic freedom, institutional integrity, institutional and individual autonomy, and shared academic governance.

The award includes a medallion and plaque, each engraved with a figure of Palulap, the legendary Micronesian navigator. Nominations are solicited annually, although the award is only granted when a nominee unequivocally meets the award criteria. The deadline to submit nominations is 5pm on Friday, Feb. 15.

For further information, visit www.uog.edu/faculty-senate/pallulap-award, call 735-2998, or email facultysenate@triton.uog.edu. ***(PR)***

US jet crashes in 2nd accident involving US carrier in month

TOKYO (AP)—A U.S. combat jet from the aircraft carrier USS R*onald Reagan* crashed into the sea northeast of the Philippines on Monday, but its two pilots were rescued safely.

The U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet said the F/A-18 Hornet had a mechanical problem during routine operations in the Philippine Sea.

A rescue aircraft quickly plucked the pilots from the water and brought them back to the ship, the Navy said in a statement. They were in good condition and the aircraft carrier has since returned to normal operations, the Navy said.

The cause of the crash is under investigation.

The crash was the second involving aircraft belonging to the USS Ronald Reagan in less than a month.

In mid-October, a MH-60 Seahawk crashed shortly after takeoff, causing non-fatal injuries to a dozen sailors.

The aircraft carrier participated in a joint exercise known as "Keen Sword" with Japan and Canada from Oct. 29 to Nov. 8 in waters around Japan and near Guam in the Pacific.

The F/A-18 was part of Carrier Air Wing 5 onboard the Ronald Reagan, the Navy said.

HANMI occupancy at 76 percent in October

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a 75.68 percent average occupancy rate among 11 member hotels for October 2018. The figure reflects a 6-percent decrease compared to October 2017.

Hotel occupancy in the Marianas took a hit following the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu, which passed over Saipan and Tinian on the evening of Oct. 24, 2018. In the final days of the month, the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport was closed to air traffic except outbound flights to repatriate visitors and military or relief flights.

The airport is targeted to resume regular daytime flights on Thursday, Nov. 15.

"Super Typhoon Yutu had had and will continue to have an impact on hotel occupancy until tourism is fully restored. The full impact of that effect will be seen in our November occupancy rates and hotel occupancy tax collected," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "Most critically, the major hotels of Saipan World Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, and Aquarius Towers are not taking reservations at this time as they focus on needed repairs. However, each hotel is working diligently to re-open as soon as possible. Luckily, all of our other hotels in central and northern Saipan sustained only minor damage and are fully operational. Based on a poll of major hotels last week, we estimate that about 70 to 75 percent of rooms are open. We look forward to the return of visitors and will continue, as an association and member hotels, to aid the recovery of our affected employees and the community, at large. We will overcome this, Marianas!"

Average room rates were higher than last year at $145.46 compared to $144.76 last October. A total of 54,971 of 72,634 available room nights sold in October 2018, compared to 58,862 of 71,920 available room nights sold over the same period last year.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects.

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical reports are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Saipan World Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan. ***(HANMI)***

Relief aid for Filipinos on Saipan

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the office of Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio Arago, will again be handing out relief assistance to 200 Filipino nationals on Saipan.

The relief assistance distribution will take place on Friday, Nov. 16, at the Kristo Rai Parish Social Hall in Garapan. Distribution begins at 8:30am.

Those claiming the relief distribution must provide a photocopy of a valid Philippine passport (data page/photo page of passport). Bring a pen.

This will be the consulate's third relief assistance distribution to the Filipinos in the CNMI since Super Typhoon Yutu hit in late October. In the first and second relief distribution, the consulate handed out cash aid.

■ The cash assistance will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

■ This relief assistance will be initially limited to 400 slots, hence relief distribution will be limited to one person per family/household to allow the consulate to serve as many households as possible.

■ "We appeal for everyone's patience and understanding," the consulate said in a statement. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Sisters reunite, work together for recovery efforts

Specialist Vanessa Sally, at right, a combat medic from the Guam Army National Guard's 1st-294th Infantry Regiment's Headquarters Company, poses for a photo with her sister, Shana Sally, a registered nurse in the Pediatrics Department of the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan.
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE/GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

Two siblings were able to reunite earlier this month and help each other support recovery efforts in the wake of the destruction caused by Super Typhoon Yutu on Saipan.

Specialist Vanessa Sally, a combat medic, from the Guam Army National Guard's 1st-294th Infantry Regiment's Headquarters Company, was part of a group of Guam Guard soldiers that volunteered to respond and help the people of Saipan.

Born and raised on Saipan, Sally said she was glad to be back home and will help out any way she can to restore the beautify back to the island. "It's a good feeling to know that the Guam Guard is making a difference for the people of Saipan," she said.

Since she is a combat medic, Sally was assigned to take care of soldiers that reported to Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan, for sick call or other medical needs. She was extremely excited to know that she would be working with her sister, Shana Sally, a registered nurse in the Pediatrics Department of CHC.

The sisters have not seen each other since Vanessa and their two younger sisters, Angelica, 17, and Katelyn, 6, relocated to Guam on September 2015, shortly after Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan.

"I'm grateful to the Guam Guard for helping with recovery efforts and for bringing my sister back to our home island again. My coworkers and I were working overtime during and after the typhoon treating many people who were injured. It was vital that the Guam Guard came to help clear the main roads to allow emergency and police vehicles to respond to calls of distress from the people of Saipan," said Shana Sally.

Vanessa Sally is following in her sister's footsteps and pursuing a degree in nursing and/or biology at the Guam Community College. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

America mustn't grow numb to gun violence

When Jason Coffman learned of the Wednesday night shooting at Borderline Bar & Grill in Thousand Oaks, California, he immediately turned to his cellphone.

Like so many parents, Jason has an app to track the whereabouts of his 22-year-old son, Cody. It was his way to know his son was safe.

On Thursday morning, the app showed Cody's phone was still at Borderline, and hadn't moved. Just hours before, Coffman had told Cody he loved him and said goodbye, hoping his son wouldn't drink and drive after a night with friends.

But then came a horrific hail of gunfire at the bar—and the news hours later that Cody and 11 others had been killed.

Like schools, houses of worship, workplaces and music festivals before it, now Borderline is a place whose sheen of safety is shattered. A week and a half ago, it was a synagogue in Pittsburgh, leaving grandchildren mourning grandparents killed during a morning of Sabbath prayers. Now parents are mourning children killed during a night of music and line dancing.

We've reached a sickening point—some of those who survived the Borderline shooting also had survived the 2017 mass shooting at a concert in Las Vegas. The country music that so often brings people together for fun now links some in horror.

It's easy, perhaps too easy, to wake up to the stunning news of yet another mass shooting and turn away, perhaps unsurprised and even a bit numb. But we mustn't become anesthetized to the grainy cellphone videos punctured by the sound of gunfire or the images of people fleeing. This shouldn't be routine; this isn't normal. We still must be shocked, we still must be horrified. Every. Single. Time.

Sustaining that emotion becomes all the more difficult when there are no simple solutions. In this case, the gunman was identified as Ian David Long, who served in the Marines as a machine gunner with a deployment to Afghanistan. Long's handgun was legal, although it apparently included an extended magazine. Neighbors and law enforcement officials said the suspect had a history of mental health troubles. As recently as last spring, mental health professionals had spoken to the suspect but concluded he was not a danger to himself or others.

The lack of a clear path to ending this epidemic doesn't mean there aren't important conversations to be had, particularly about the need to care for our veterans and to determine what more can be done when someone is identified as having emotional problems and also possesses a weapon.

We must continue to find ways to better protect ourselves and our children. And we must honestly confront the questions about what in our country, our culture or our interactions with one another allows this to become so intolerably common.

We must not shield our eyes or change the channel. We must watch and listen. We must mourn, and we must be outraged.

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BUT THE GOOD NEWS, MR. LEE... THEY'RE BRINGING YOU BACK FOR FUTURE EPISODES
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Reality's comeback

By VIRGINIA HEFFERNAN
Los Angeles Times

Scott Adams, creator of "Dilbert" and admirer of President Trump, often crows that the presidential election in 2016 "punched a hole in reality."

Adams, a self-styled nihilist, finds the uppercut to truth exciting. Most others find it terrifying. But there is some agreement: The election of a sui generis TV personality to the highest office in the land blackened the eye of American institutions. Whether you consider that a good or a bad thing depends on what you think of those institutions.

Nothing in the last two years put a halt to reality's epic losing streak. At a recent rally for the president in Florida, a Trump fan said she was entirely indifferent to Trump's numberless lies. She nicely nailed the embrace of our national acid trip: "I don't care if he sprouts a third penis up there," only she didn't use the anatomically correct term.

On Tuesday, however, midterm voters offered at least one cheer for restoring truth. They brought a sharp check to the compulsively deceitful administration: a Democratic majority in the House.

Lies have some competition now. There's an opposition party with a voice and a veto.

Sure, Democrats dearly wished for the emotional shot in the arm that might have come with the victory of at least one of the telegenic candidates in the Obama mode: Andrew Gillum (as governor in Florida), Stacey Abrams (as governor in Georgia) and Beto O'Rourke (as U.S. senator in Texas). Unfortunately, they all lost (though Abrams has not yet conceded).

But morale, while it would be nice, is not what's required right now.

It's even possible that Democrats, independents, centrist Republicans and Never Trumpers—who can be forgiven for craving some serotonin—wouldn't actually benefit from a high. Right now, all concerned citizens need to be clear-eyed, not starry-eyed.

Nothing should distract us from the fundamental and urgent work for the Republic: rebuilding a nation founded on shared truth, on facts in common.

In our pluralistic and polyglot nation, one defined by bubbles and tribes, it's hard to agree even on what certifies reality. To believe bitcoin is valuable, say, because the "blockchain" keeps it safe requires almost religious faith. To believe that hurricanes indicate climate change because of "science" strikes others as superstitious.

These chunks of language—like "God" before them—have become partisan artifacts, rather than authorities we can agree will settle our disputes.

Absent such an authority, we must rely on dispute itself. In our courts, in our elections and in our marketplace, where competitors battle it out for voters, juries and consumers, we have historically accepted an adversarial system as the royal road to truth.

Trump, with a Supreme Court stacked with conservatives and a Republican majority in both legislative chambers, hasn't had an effective challenger.

Yes, the courts, the people, the special counsel and the non-Fox News media have heroically pushed back on the White House's lies, against the head wind of the president's efforts to demonize and destroy them. But without a fully empowered adversary among the three branches of government, the administration has been behaving immorally and unlawfully. This must stop

In addition to a voice and a veto, the Democratic-majority Congress also has the all-important power to conduct investigations. And conscientious investigations are reality's most formidable weapon.

In August, a spreadsheet surfaced: It was a list of the probes Republicans most feared in the event of a Democratic majority in the House.

It seems that, at summer's end, Trump's party was terrified that a Democratic Congress would subpoena Trump's tax returns, look into corruption in his businesses, investigate his dealings with Russia, question his payment to porn actress Stormy Daniels and dig into his firing of former FBI Director James B. Comey.

Has the president's son-in-law Jared Kushner complied with ethics guidelines? Are Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin's

See REALITY on Next Page

Congress should pursue shared prosperity

By KY-NAM KWON MILLER
Tribune News Service

Ky-Nam Kwon Miller is economic equity director at The Greenlining Institute, a nonprofit advocacy group based in Oakland, California.

The Democrats have taken back the House of Representatives in what feels like a clear rejection of the false promises and bigotry of the Trump administration. But now, they must go beyond anti-Trump rhetoric and push bold ideas to advance opportunity and prosperity for the vast majority of Americans being left behind by the policies of Washington, D.C., and Wall Street.

In our $19 trillion economy, a well-connected few have done spectacularly well, while more and more working Americans struggle to make ends meet. Democrats must chart a real path to prosperity that can replace failed, trickle-down economics – one that invests in and uplifts Americans on the margins and breaks down barriers to opportunities.

House leaders should announce a bold agenda for their first 100 days. They can start by aggressively pushing for two bills introduced in the Senate earlier this year that have gone nowhere under Republican leadership: the "LIFT the Middle Class Act" from Sen. Kamala Harris, Democrat of California, and the "American Housing and Economic Mobility Act" from Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Democrat of Massachusetts. Both would help ordinary Americans who got little or nothing from the GOP's massive tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy.

Harris' bill would provide a refundable tax credit of up to $6,000 for low-income and middle-class Americans, bringing some balance into a tax system that has become grotesquely skewed toward the wealthy. Warren's deficit-neutral measure would address our growing housing crisis by building or rehabilitating 3.2 million housing units; assisting first-time homebuyers living in low-income, formerly redlined neighborhoods; and investing $2 billion in long-overdue support for buyers whose home equity was obliterated in the 2008 crash.

Warren's bill also takes initial steps toward strengthening the Community Reinvestment Act, a little-known but important law that dates from the late 1970s. The law, written to fight redlining – the practice whereby the federal government joined with banks and other institutions to deny mortgage loans to people of color – needs an update to deal with changes in the financial industry. Redlining, though technically illegal, never completely went away.

These proposals represent a good start, but Congress could and should go even farther. We need a Community Reinvestment Act for the 21st century that harnesses the tech economy to invest in opportunity in every American community.

By giving a fair shake to all and opening doorways to opportunity for those who have the least, we can build prosperity for all of us – not just the 400 billionaires who now own more wealth than the bottom 64 percent of Americans.

It's true that none of these proposals will become law quickly, so long as the GOP controls the Senate and the White House. But no important change comes quickly. We can start building a better, fairer America, and Democrats now have a chance to lead the way.

A war in Washington

By JAY BOOKMAN
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Jay Bookman is a columnist and blogger at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, *specializing in foreign relations, environmental and technology-related issues and state and local politics.*

If you were wondering what the next two years might be like in Washington, wonder no longer. In President Donald Trump's words, it's going to be a "warlike posture," and that war began in a combative post-election press conference in which a defensive, angry Trump made clear that anybody who dares to cross him would become a target.

That includes fellow conservatives, whom he increasingly treats as subjects who owe him total personal loyalty, and to whom he owes nothing. In his opening statement, Trump publicly mocked Republicans in suburban districts who had dared to distance themselves from his royal personage, even celebrating the fact that many had lost.

"Carlos Curbelo, Mike Coffman—too bad, Mike," Trump said with a smile on his face. "Mia Love. I saw Mia Love ... But Mia Love gave me no love, and she lost. Too bad. Sorry about that, Mia."

"Peter Roskam didn't want the embrace. Erik Paulsen didn't want the embrace ... didn't work out too good," Trump went on, reading off a list of the Republican fallen. "Those are some of the people that, you know, decided for their own reason not to embrace."

Others unlikely to offer "the embrace"—also known as taking a knee before the king—were treated with similar scorn. When Trump was asked about Democratic plans to investigate his administration, he responded with a threat to investigate the congressional investigators. I can only imagine the GOP response had Barack Obama made such a statement.

When a black reporter, the calm, respected Yamiche Alcindor of PBS, dared to ask Trump whether his embrace of nationalism might be mistaken by some as an endorsement of white nationalism, the president proclaimed himself insulted. He bragged of record-high polling numbers among African-Americans and then accused Alcindor of racism for daring to ask such a question.

(That same day, the executive director of Identity Evropa, a racist, violent white-nationalist group with the motto "They will not replace us," tweeted pictures of himself standing on the White House grounds. "Evropa has landed at the White House!," the text read.)

Another reporter then rose to correct Trump, pointing out that his job approval among black Americans remains dismal: "It's just 8 percent, sir. Single digits."

"See, when you talk about division, it's people like this that cause division, great division," Trump said, pointing at the reporter who had dared to tell him truth. That's how the man thinks: Anybody who questions His Marvelousness is guilty of causing division, because the unity that he seeks is absolute conformity to his wishes.

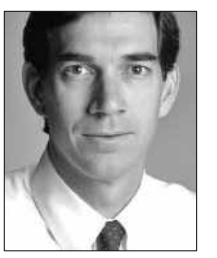
Itching for a fight, Trump also called upon his arch-enemy in the press, CNN's Jim Acosta. I'm no great fan of Acosta's grandstanding—he has taken too eagerly to the self-appointed role as Trump's foil, and while it's the press's job to ask tough questions, those questions should be intended to solicit information or insight, not to provoke combat. Acosta sometimes crosses that line.

That said, the White House reaction was far more troubling. After the press conference, press secretary Sarah Sanders used Twitter to accuse Acosta of "laying hands" on a female intern who had attempted to take his mic away, and Acosta's White House press credential were stripped. Sanders also posted a video alleged to prove the assault claim.

The allegation is false; the video tweeted by Sanders had clearly been doctored, as comparisons with the original have proved. That's the depth to which this administration has sunk, and it will go lower still.

The story of the next mass shooting

By TAYLOR BATTEN
The Charlotte Observer



To: Staff
From: Editors

Many of you know that some news outlets are increasingly using robots to write news stories that are completely predictable and formulaic. These include weather summaries, sports recaps and corporate earnings stories.

Along those lines, given that mass shootings are becoming an almost daily occurrence in the United States, we have created a news story template you can use to facilitate writing stories on these common events. Please begin using this, starting with tomorrow's mass shooting and continuing with each one in the coming weeks and months:

A man armed with a (enter weapon here) and endless ammunition killed (enter number here) and wounded (enter number here) on (day of week), adding to the long list of horrific mass shootings that are now accepted as routine in America. It was the (number here) mass shooting of 2018 and the (number here) just in the last month.

(Suspect's name here) walked into a (church/school/nightclub/workplace) in (city name here) and began firing. Survivors said the suspect's firepower was equivalent to that of a small Army platoon. The dead included (enter number here) law enforcement officers who responded to the shooting.

Terrified patrons tried to hide or flee as the gunman coolly went about his business. In the aftermath, distraught family members scrambled to see if their loved ones were among the dead.

Early reports suggest that the man suffered from mental illness and had purchased his guns legally. Authorities later found a stockpile of weapons in his apartment as well as threatening posts on his social media accounts. Those and other warning signs were ignored.

(Enter city name here) residents said they never thought such an incident could happen in their tranquil town.

"This is not something that happens in (enter city name here)," (enter shocked witness's name here) said. "You never think it's going to happen to you."

"We felt so safe (praying/dancing/studying)," (witness name here) said. "This was our safe place."

Activists said they hoped this rampage would finally be the one that forces Congress and the states to take real action to stem the senseless flow of blood. They pointed to the fact that no civilized nation endures the gun violence America does, and that there are 89 guns for every 100 residents in America. That number in the United Kingdom, by comparison, is less than 3.

Congressional Republicans said it was unfortunate that the victims had not been armed themselves so they could have fired back. They dismissed calls for tighter gun control measures or tougher enforcement of existing law.

"The gun is not to blame," (enter congressman's name here) said. "Just because mass shootings plague America like nowhere else in the world, that's no reason to trample on the rights of Americans to own whatever weaponry they please. That includes basic background checks."

Polls show that a strong majority of Americans back tougher common-sense gun laws such as closing the so-called gun show loophole and banning bump stocks. But analysts say the NRA has bought much of Congress, so no progress is expected.

REALITY

From Page 8

business dealings on the up and up? What about discussions of classified information at Mar-a-Lago? Why are so many Cabinet secretaries misusing their privileges and perks?

Is the travel ban constitutional? How about the family separation policy? What went on with the hurricane response in Puerto Rico and the dismissal of members of the Environmental Protection Agency's board of scientific counselors? How about all those hinky White House security clearances, and Trump's waffling about the torture and murder of American resident and journalist Jamal Khashoggi?

These are among the many questions Republicans least want asked. They'd rather persist in the unreality of their own hallucinations, sure that the threat to the republic comes from a caravan of tired and hungry asylum seekers rather than Trump's murderous buddies Vladimir Putin, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Of course, this strange inversion of national security priorities is only part of the psychedelic fantasies of this delusional and dangerous administration.

Reality, and all those who stand with it, have taken a hard hit. It's reeling like a cartoon boxer with birds tweeting around his head. But slowly, slowly reality will steady itself and make a comeback.

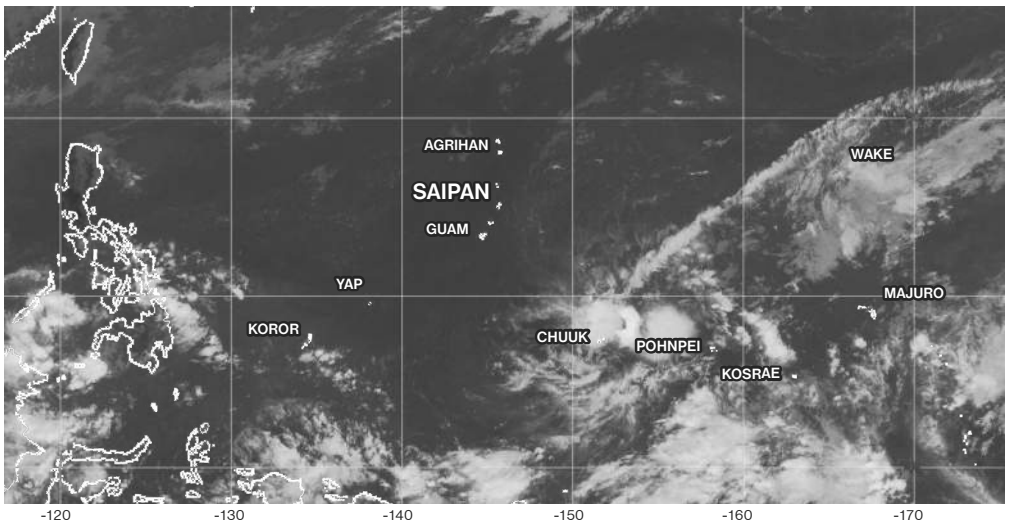
It always has—at least so far.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:03 AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Dry weather and northeast trade-winds are expected today and tonight over the Marianas. The circulation known as Invest 98C could be found north of Chuuk near 9N155E. Models move it west passing south of Guam Saturday morning. All the models agree on keeping it weak during its passage across the area. Low-level convergence ahead and north of 98C will cause an increase in clouds with mostly cloudy skies expected beginning Thursday. As 98C is expected to remain weak models only show patchy showers associated with it and so only expect isolated showers through Saturday. Another circulation will follow on the heels of 98C passing south of Guam Wednesday. This will keep skies mostly cloudy through at least next Wednesday. Shower coverage will remain isolated. Northeast winds will prevail through Friday becoming east as 98C passes south of the islands, Winds of 10 to 15 mph may increase slightly to 10 to 20 mph as 98C enhances the pressure gradient.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	70° / 55°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	46° / 27°
Hong Kong	Showers	79° / 73°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 73°
London	Foggy	61° / 45°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	78° / 51°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	66° / 50°
Miami	Thunderstorms	83° / 66°
New York	Snow	38° / 37°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	64° / 52°
Paris	Sunny	61° / 45°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	66° / 46°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	49° / 34°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 47°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	57° / 37°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	63° / 48°
Washington, DC	Rain	41° / 40°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET
6:45 AM	LOW TIDE	0.17
2:22 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.74
8:33 PM	LOW TIDE	1.15
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:18 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:20 AM	5:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:20 AM	-	-
Friday	-	12:03 AM	1:01 PM
Saturday	-	12:52 AM	1:41 PM
Sunday	-	1:40 AM	2:20 PM
Monday	-	2:29 AM	2:59 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2018

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

– temporarily suspended

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

– ALL FLIGHTS temporarily suspended

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

– temporarily suspended

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

– temporarily suspended

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

– temporarily suspended

3U8646	4:20am	7:35am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

– temporarily suspended

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	6:25pm	9:50pm	2, 4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	6:25pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

Temporarily suspended:

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
UO43	5:40am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

– temporarily suspended

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

– ALL FLIGHTS temporarily suspended

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

– temporarily suspended

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

– temporarily suspended

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

– temporarily suspended

3U8645	8:20pm	2:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

– temporarily suspended

MU763	4:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5 via GUM

Temporarily suspended:

HX07	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

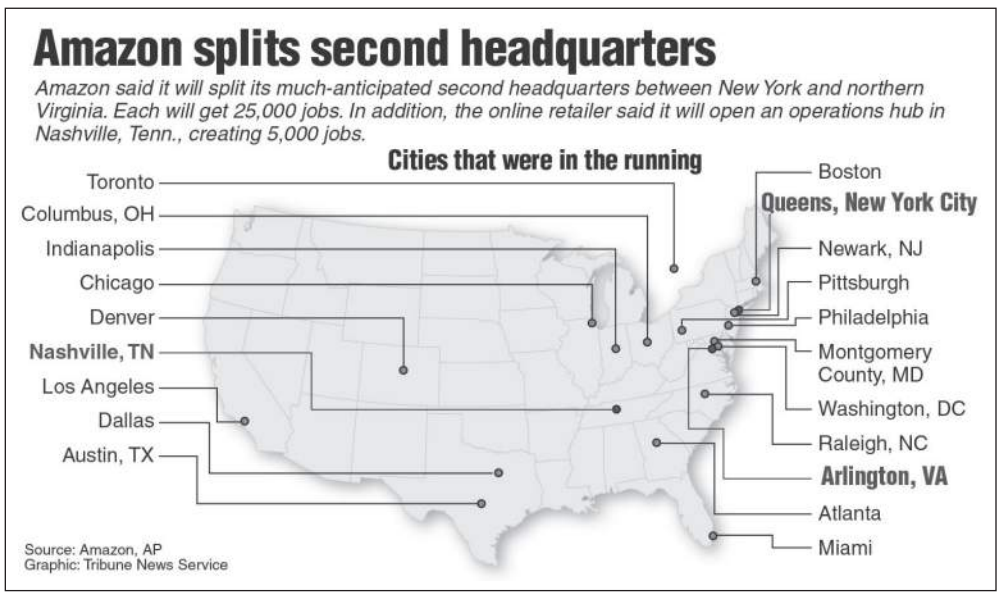
Amazon goes bicoastal, will open HQs in New York, DC suburb

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon has set its sights on two of the nation's largest and most powerful metro areas, announcing Tuesday it had chosen a buzzy New York neighborhood and a suburb of Washington for its new East Coast headquarters.

The online shopping giant ended its 14-month-long competition for second headquarters by selecting Long Island City, Queens, and Arlington, Virginia , as the joint winners. Both are waterfront communities away from overcrowded business districts, giving Amazon space to grow.

Amazon could have picked a city looking to be revitalized, like Newark, New Jersey. Instead, it decided to be in two of the nation's centers of power. The reason Amazon gave: they are best suited to attract the high-skilled workers the company wants. The two sites will each get 25,000 jobs that Amazon said will pay an average of $150,000 a year.

The company will receive more than $2 billion in tax credits and other incentives. New York is forking over more than $1.5 billion, while Virginia and Arlington are offering about a third of that—$573 million. The hope is that Amazon will attract other companies and ultimately boost the local economies.



But while many see it as an opportunity, not everyone is sold on the idea.

"Offering massive corporate welfare from scarce public resources to one of the wealthiest corporations in the world at a time of great need in our state is just wrong," said New York State Sen. Michael Gianaris and New York City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer, Democrats who represent the Long Island City area, in a joint statement.

Amazon, which started as an online bookstore two decades ago, has grown to a behemoth that had nearly $180 billion in revenue last year. It now owns well-known brands, including grocer Whole Foods and online shoe-seller Zappos. It also makes movies and TV shows, runs an advertising business and offers cloud computing services to corporations and government agencies.

The company has more than 610,000 employees worldwide, making it the second largest U.S.-based, publicly-traded employer behind Walmart.

But it was the prospect of 50,000 jobs that led 238 communities across North America to pitch Amazon on why they should be home to the next headquarters.

New York is the nation's financial and media powerhouse and has been working to attract technology companies. Google already has more than 7,000 workers in the city and, according to media reports, is looking to add 12,000 more in coming years.

Arlington is directly across the Potomac River from Washington. Large government contractors have offices and lobbying operations there. However, many of its 1980s-era office buildings have vacancies after thousands of federal employees moved elsewhere. Being near the nation's capital could help Amazon with lobbying efforts as the company faces rising scrutiny from politicians.

Amazon said it will spend $5 billion between both locations on construction and other projects.

The new outposts won't appear overnight. Amazon said hiring at the two headquarters will start next year, but it could take a decade or more to build out its offices.

Its New York location will be in a neighborhood of Queens that sits directly across from midtown Manhattan. Once a bustling factory and freight-moving area, many of Long Island City's plants and warehouses closed as manufacturing left New York. The empty warehouses drew artists looking for affordable rents and businesses followed. Today, the neighborhood is made up of expensive, high-rise condos, with many more under construction.

Amazon's Virginia offices will be in a part of Arlington that local politicians and Amazon are calling National Landing, an area around Reagan National Airport that encompasses Crystal City and Potomac Yard. Large parts are made up of vacant '70s and '80s-era office buildings. Among other challenges, Crystal City has fought to overcome a reputation for outdated architecture.

The 'worst toys' for the holidays

BOSTON (AP)—A Black Panther "slash claw" and a plastic Power Rangers sword are among the items topping a consumer safety group's annual list of worst toys for the holiday season.

Massachusetts-based World Against Toys Causing Harm, or W.A.T.C.H., unveiled its 46th annual list of the 10 "worst toys" Tuesday at Franciscan Children's Hospital in Boston.

Joan Siff, the nonprofit organization's president, said many of the toys on the list represent choking, eye and other safety hazards that surface year after year, despite the group's efforts.

Siff advised parents to shop "defensively" and not be lulled into a false sense of security because a toy is made by a familiar brand or sold at an established retailer. One child is treated in a U.S. emergency room every three minutes for a toy-related injury, according to the Center for Injury and Research at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

A Cabbage Patch Kids ballerina doll that made this year's list, for example, is marketed to children ages two and above, but includes a removable tutu and headband that can be choking hazards, said James Swartz, a trial lawyer who serves as W.A.T.C.H.'s director.

A slender mallet that comes with VTech's caterpillar-shaped electronic xylophone—a toy made for children as young as 18 months old—is another similar choking threat, he said.

Other toys on the list included a Nerf gun that fires soft discs, a "stomp rocket" that launches foam-tipped projectiles up to 200 feet in the air and a plastic "cutting fruit" set. The cutting set, which includes a toy knife made out of rigid plastic, is made for children who are older than 2.

But the Toy Association, an industry trade group that represents most of the toy companies named this year, complained the list is biased, inaccurate and "needlessly frightening" to parents.The association said many of the hazards highlighted by W.A.T.C.H. are clearly spelled out in the products' packaging and instructions. It also said only two products listed on the nonprofit's "worst toy" lists from the five years prior were recalled, and those two had already been pulled before W.A.T.C.H. released its list.

Swartz responded by pointing to a list of dozens of toys that have been recalled or pulled from retailers' shelves from the early 2000s all the way back to the 1970s, in part by the group's efforts.

Trump right and wrong on 'French' wine tariffs

PARIS (AP)—U.S. President Donald Trump is partly right but far from completely correct when he says that France's "big tariffs" make it hard for American vintners to sell their wines to the French.

Wrong because customs duties on imported wines are applied not by France but by the European Union. Right because American tariffs are "globally" less than what Europe charges, the French customs authority says.

Prices aside, wine made in the U.S. is apparently appreciated in the European Union—the world's premier importer—and in France, where the value of wine imported has risen 200 percent between 2008 and 2017, according to the French Federation of Wines and Spirits Exporters.

Trump went after France on several fronts in tweets Tuesday, including blasting tariffs on its emblematic wine.

"On Trade, France makes excellent wine, but so does the U.S.," Trump tweeted. "The problem is that France makes it very hard for the U.S. to sell its wines into France, and charges big Tariffs, whereas the U.S. makes it easy for French wines, and charges very small Tariffs. Not fair, must change!"

French tariffs as such don't exist. Tariffs are set by the European Union "in the same conditions" as wines imported from most countries and are applied by all EU countries, the French exporter group said in an email.

"This tariff has not evolved in 20 years," it said.

The alcohol level helps determine tariffs on non-EU wine imported into European countries, with a higher duty as the alcoholic volume rises, Lionel Briand, communications chief for the French Customs office, said in an email. Alcoholic content is also factored into U.S. tariffs, along with the size of the wine's container.

"American products are not submitted to a distinct duty but to the same duties as all third countries," those outside the EU, Briand added.

As an example, a bottle of white American wine with 13 percent alcohol content imported into the European Union carries a customs duty of 10 euro cents (a bit over 11 U.S. cents). A bottle of white of white wine from the EU exported to the United States has a customs duty of 5 U.S. cents.

The gap in duties is narrower for red wine with an alcohol content of 14.5 percent.

Bulk wines are another story—the U.S. tariff is double the EU one, a break for American producers since bulk wine represents 25 percent of the volume of U.S. wine coming into the EU, according to the French exporter federation.

Still, "the level of customs duties applied by the United States to (imported) wine is globally weaker than EU duties for the same products," Briand of the Customs office said.

And Americans clearly like French wine. The United States is the leading importer of French wines by value, taking in 1.67 billion euros worth of French wines between Aug. 2017 and July 2018, according to FranceAgriMer, which works under the French Agriculture Ministry. That is up 30 percent compared to five years ago.

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British Pound	0.7701	Indian Rupee	71.4422	Singapore Dollar	1.3806
Canadian Dollar	1.3234	Japanese Yen	113.9270	South Korean Won	1114.56
Chinese Yuan	6.8278	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1472	Swiss Franc	1.0070
Euro	0.8856	New Zealand Dollar	1.4757	Taiwan Dollar	30.3793
		Philippine Peso	51.9975	Thailand Baht	32.8305

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Nation

Sheriff: California wildfire's death toll rises to 48

PARADISE, Calif. (AP)—Ernest Foss was a musician who gave lessons out of his home when he lived in San Francisco, where an amplifier that ran the length of a wall served as the family's living room couch. Carl Wiley refurbished tires for Michelin. Jesus Fernandez, known as "Zeus," was described as a loving father and loyal friend.

They were among the first victims identified in the aftermath of the deadliest, most destructive wildfire in California history, an inferno blamed for at least 48 deaths, with authorities ramping up the search Tuesday for still more souls.

The flames all but obliterated the Northern California town of Paradise, population 27,000, and ravaged surrounding areas last Thursday. About 7,700 homes were destroyed.

The exact number of missing was unclear, but many friends and relatives of those living in the fire zone said they hadn't heard from loved ones. Some went to shelters looking for the missing.

Efforts were underway to bring in mobile morgues, cadaver dogs, a rapid DNA analysis system for identifying victims, and an additional 150 search-and-rescue personnel on top of 13 teams already looking for remains—a grim indication that the death toll would almost surely rise.

The Northern California wildfire has killed at least 42 people, making it the deadliest in state history. (Nov. 13)

Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea's office has identified four of the victims, publicly naming three.

AP

Charred remains are all that is left of the destroyed home of German TV presenter Thomas Gottschalk, Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018, in Malibu, Calif., after the Woolsey Fire swept through.

James Wiley said sheriff's deputies informed him that his father, Carl, was among the dead, but the younger Wiley hadn't been able to leave his property in the fire area to see for himself. The elder Wiley, 77, was a tire-recapper, and the family lived in Alaska for many years before moving to Butte County decades ago.

James Wiley said his father was a stoic veteran, and the two had not spoken in six years. "Hey, I lost him a long time ago," the younger man said.

Foss, 63, moved to Paradise eight years ago because the high cost of living pushed him out of the San Francisco Bay Area, according to his daughter, Angela Loo. He had swollen limbs and couldn't walk. He had also been on oxygen.

Loo told KTVU-TV in Oakland that her father taught music out of their home in San Francisco and turned the living room into a studio.

"I love that he shared his gift of music with me and so many others during his lifetime," she said. "He would want to be remembered for being a San Franciscan through and through."

Fernandez, a 48-year-old Concow resident, also died.

Myrna Pascua, whose husband was best friends with the man known as "Zeus," called him a "tireless provider, a dependable and loyal friend, a considerate neighbor, and loving father. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him."

Five days after the blaze, over 1,000 people were at more than a half-dozen shelters set up for evacuees. At the Neighborhood Church in Chico, counselors, chaplains and nursing students from California State University, Chico, were available to help.

Volunteers cooked meals, and there was a large bulletin board with information about missing people.

Recipe for disaster
Santa Ana winds are strong, extremely dry downslope winds in Southern California and northern Baja California. They originate inland in desert regions and occur mainly in the fall and winter but can arise during other seasons.
Santa Ana winds fueled wildfires
1 A huge high pressure system over the Great Basin produces offshore winds
2 Winds accelerate and heat up as they squeeze through canyons and passes
3 The Santa Anas exploded out of canyons and spread out across Southern California, where vegetation is unusually dry from lack of rain.
Ore.
Idaho
Nev.
Utah
Great Basin
Calif.
Ariz.
MEXICO
Great Basin/ deserts
Mountains
SANTA ANA WINDS
Basin
Santa Anas, named after Southern California's Santa Ana Canyon, can cause a great deal of damage. The fast, hot winds cause vegetation to dry out, increasing the danger of wildfire. Once the fires start, the winds fan the flames and hasten their spread. The winds create turbulence and establish vertical wind shear (in which winds exhibit substantial change in speed and/or direction with height), both posing aviation hazards.
The severity of Santa Ana winds varies by year. Some years see less strong winds than others. The winds in some years — such as 1993, 2003 and 2007 — have produced multiple destructive fires.
Source: National Weather Service, Weather Underground, atmos.ucla.edu, Los Angeles Times
Graphic: Staff, TNS

ACROSS THE NATION

4 dead, 1 wounded in apparent murder-suicide in New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—The FBI says four people are dead and a woman wounded after an apparent murder-suicide on the Navajo Nation in northwestern New Mexico. They say one of the dead is the suspected shooter. A spokesman for the FBI in Albuquerque says the incident occurred inside a residence Tuesday morning in the community of Tsayatoh (say-yah-TOH'), which is near the New Mexico-Arizona border. Authorities say it appears the shooting was an act of domestic violence. Autopsies are pending on the four adults who died. An adult woman was taken to a hospital with gunshot wounds and Navajo police say she's in critical condition. The names of the four dead and the wounded woman were not immediately released. The FBI and the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety are investigating the incident.

Authorities: Custody dispute played role in family's slaying

WAVERLY, Ohio (AP)—Authorities arrested a family of four Tuesday in the gruesome 2016 slayings of eight people from another family in rural Ohio, a crime that prosecutors suggested stemmed from a custody dispute. The announcement marked the culmination of a massive investigative effort that began after seven adults and a teenage boy were found shot in the head at four separate homes in April 2016. The killings terrified local residents and spawned rumors that it was a drug hit. Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine said a grand jury indicted the four on aggravated murder charges and they could be sentenced to death if convicted. DeWine gave scant detail about why the victims were killed, but he said the custody of a young child played a role. He added that the accused had carefully planned the murders for months. "There certainly was an obsession with custody, obsession with control of children," DeWine said.

Sex trafficking case dropped against ex-death row inmate

HONOLULU (AP)—Sex trafficking charges in Hawaii were dismissed Tuesday against a former death row inmate from Delaware, allowing him to walk of court a free man again. U.S. prosecutors dropped a 10-count indictment against Isaiah McCoy, who represented himself in the case. A judge approved the dismissal, and McCoy walked out of court after being held without bail in Honolulu Federal Detention Center since January. Prosecutors moved to dismiss the case because of information they "became aware of in the past several days," said a news release from the U.S. attorney's office in Hawaii. The release didn't elaborate on why the office dropped the indictment. After Tuesday's hearing, McCoy spoke to The Associated Press from the downtown Honolulu office of his court-appointed standby attorney, Gary Singh. "I'm free," McCoy said. "It was unjustified and unwarranted in the first place," he said of the indictment.

Trump calls on Florida Democrat to concede, implies fraud

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—President Donald Trump sought to intervene in Florida's legally mandated vote recount Tuesday, calling on the state's Democratic senator to admit defeat and again implying without evidence that officials in two pivotal counties are trying to steal the election.

"When will Bill Nelson concede in Florida?" Trump said in a morning tweet. "The characters running Broward and Palm Beach voting will not be able to 'find' enough votes, too much spotlight on them now!"

There have been bumps as Florida undergoes recounts for both the governor and Senate races. Palm Beach County said it won't finish its recount by the Thursday deadline. In oft-criticized Broward County, additional sheriff's deputies were sent to guard ballots and voting machines, a compromise aimed at alleviating concerns. Those counties are both Democratic strongholds.

Still, the state elections department and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, which are run by Republican appointees, have said they have seen no evidence of voter fraud. A Broward County judge challenged anyone who has evidence of fraud to file a report.

Meanwhile, a flurry of legal action continued. Nelson and a Democratic campaign committee filed two more lawsuits on Tuesday, including one that asks a federal judge to set aside looming deadlines for a machine recount as well as a hand recount, if it is ordered.

AP's Washington Bureau chief Julie Pace explains why outstanding races in Florida and Georgia have become so significant, that even President Donald Trump has taken to twitter about one of them. (Nov. 12)

Presidents have historically sought to rise above the heated partisan drama surrounding election irregularities. Former President Barack Obama wasn't so publicly involved when a recount and legal process in the 2008 election delayed a Democrat taking a Minnesota Senate seat until July 2009. Former President Bill Clinton struck a lower tone during the 2000 presidential recount, which also centered on Florida.

But this year, the Florida recount was personal for Trump. He aggressively campaigned in the state in the waning days of the election and put his finger on the scales of the Republican gubernatorial primary this summer by endorsing former Rep. Ron DeSantis. After Election Day, Trump's aides pointed to the GOP's seeming success in the state as a validation that the president's path to re-election remained clear—a narrative that has grown hazier as the outcomes have become less certain.

White House spokeswoman Mercedes Schlapp said Tuesday the president "obviously has his opinion" on the recount.

"It's been incredibly frustrating to watch," she said.

U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said Trump is attempting to bully Florida election officials out of doing their jobs. Schumer and Nelson, both Democrats, spoke with reporters Tuesday in Washington.

"It's just plain wrong. It's un-American." Schumer said. "If he really wants an honest and fair election, President Trump will stop bullying, harassing and lying about the vote in Florida, and let the election proceed without the heavy hand of the president tipping the scale of justice."

Asia

In factory after factory, Kim tries to grow N. Korea economy

WONSAN, North Korea (AP)—For North Korean factory managers, a visit by leader Kim Jong Un is the highest of honors and quite possibly the most stressful event imaginable.

The chief engineer at the Songdowon General Foodstuffs Factory had looked forward to the visit for nearly a decade. His factory churns out tons of cookies, crackers, candies and bakery goods, plus dozens of varieties of soft drinks sold around the country. In its showroom, Kwon Yong Chol proudly showed off one of his best-sellers, a nutrient soup made with spirulina, a blue-green microalgae "superfood."

"Ever since construction began everyone here had wanted the leader to visit, and this year he did. His visit was the biggest thing that could happen to us," Kwon, smiling broadly, said of Kim Jong Un's visit in July. "He ate our instant noodles. He said they were delicious."

Not all managers have been so fortunate.

There's a lot on the line for North Korea these days. And Kim means business.

Though the international spotlight has been on his denuclearization talks with Washington, the North Korean leader has a lot riding domestically on his promises to boost the country's economy and standard of living. His announcement in April that North Korea had sufficiently developed its nuclear weapons and would now focus on building its economy marked a sharp turn in official policy, setting the stage for his rapid-fire meetings with the leaders of China, South Korea and the United States.

It also set in motion an ambitious campaign of "on-the-spot guidance" trips to rally party officials, factory managers and military troops.

After the announcement of the "new strategic line" and his first round of summits, including his meeting in June with President Donald Trump, Kim embarked on nearly 20 inspection tours around the country in July and another 10 in August, all but one of them to non-military locations. The military inspection rounds are instead being handled by the country's premier, Pak Pong Ju, who has gone on 18 inspection tours from July, mostly to military facilities.

On-the-spot guidance tours are a tradition Kim inherited from his father and grandfather, the late "eternal General-Secretary" Kim Jong Il and "eternal President" Kim Il Sung.

They date to the late 1940s, when Kim Il Sung began gradually institutionalizing the visits to demonstrate his hands-on leadership and, as invariably portrayed by the North's media, his deep care and concern for the well-being of the people.

Factories, farms and important industrial facilities are the usual destinations. But Kim Jong Un's focus on them this year marks a break from excursions in 2017 to nuclear weapons facilities and missile sites.

Reflecting the gravity of his current mission, Kim has shown little patience for cadres who come up short.

On his July tour in the northern part of the country he lambasted officials at a factory that produces backpacks for students, saying their attitude was "very wrong" and "has no revolutionary spirit." He then dressed down officials at a power plant that has been under construction for 17 years, criticized people in charge of a hotel project for taking too long to finish plastering its walls and slammed the authorities responsible for building a recreational campsite.

AP

In this Monday, Nov. 5, 2018 photo released by the North Korean government, Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel, left, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un raise hands together as they watch watch a gymnastics and artistic performance at the May Day Stadium in Pyongyang, North Korea.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Asian leaders push for progress on South China Sea pact

SINGAPORE (AP)—Southeast Asian leaders and China are touting progress in keeping peace in the contentious South China Sea as they work toward a "code of conduct" to govern navigation routes and other activities in the region. Speaking at the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Singapore, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang cited the region's management of territorial disputes as an example and said the trend was toward greater stability. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said he wanted at "all cost" to set the rules governing behavior in those seas to avoid trouble. Duterte told reporters that relations between China and its Southeast Asian neighbors were "excellent" and that friction was between Western nations and China. He said a code of conduct was needed to avoid dangerous miscalculations.

Cambodia accuses 11 pregnant women of breaking surrogacy law

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—A Cambodian court on Tuesday charged 18 people, including 11 pregnant women, with violating laws against surrogate births. Phnom Penh Municipal Court spokesman Ly Sophana said the 11 women and four other people were charged with surrogacy and human trafficking. Three more people were charged with conspiracy but did not appear. The suspects were arrested last week in a police raid and charged under a law that specifically targets surrogacy, which was outlawed in 2016 after Cambodia became a popular destination for foreigners seeking women to give birth to their children. Acting as an intermediary between an adoptive parent and a pregnant woman carries a penalty of one to six months in prison. The human trafficking offense is punishable by seven to 15 years' imprisonment.

Child kickboxing debated in Thailand after 13-year-old dies

BANGKOK (AP)—The death of a 13-year-old boy who was knocked out during a kickboxing match in Thailand has sparked debate over whether to ban matches involving children. The death of Anucha Tasako came after a Muay Thai—Thai boxing—match Saturday in the Bangkok suburb of Samut Prakarn. The Facebook page Muaythai Krobwongjorn, which covers the sport, said he died from a brain hemorrhage. Protective gear is normally not worn in the sport, and video circulated on social media said to be of the fight shows Anucha not wearing any. Child boxing is widespread in Thailand, especially in rural areas, where it offers a way for children to help provide for their families and a path to lift them out of poverty, according to its advocates. Opponents say the sport is dangerous, citing studies such as one published last month by Thailand's Mahidol University saying that allowing children under 15 to box could result in various types of brain damage.

After 17 years, many Afghans blame US for unending war

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—When U.S. forces and their Afghan allies rode into Kabul in November 2001 they were greeted as liberators. But after 17 years of war, the Taliban have retaken half the country, security is worse than it's ever been, and many Afghans place the blame squarely on the Americans.

The United States has lost more than 2,400 soldiers in its longest war, and has spent more than $900 billion on everything from military operations to the construction of roads, bridges and power plants. Three U.S. presidents have pledged to bring peace to Afghanistan, either by adding or withdrawing troops, by engaging the Taliban or shunning them. Last year, the U.S. dropped the "mother of all bombs" on a cave complex.

None of it has worked. After years of frustration, Afghanistan is rife with conspiracy theories, including the idea that Americans didn't stumble into a forever war, but planned one all along.

Mohammed Ismail Qasimyar, a member of Afghanistan's High Peace Council, wonders how U.S. and NATO forces—which at their peak numbered 150,000 and fought alongside hundreds of thousands of Afghan troops, were unable to vanquish tens of thousands of Taliban.

"Either they did not want to or they could not do it," he said. He now suspects the U.S. and its ally Pakistan deliberately sowed chaos in Afghanistan to justify the lingering presence of foreign forces—now numbering around 15,000—in order to use the country as a listening post to monitor Iran, Russia and China.

"They have made a hell, not a paradise for us," he said.

Afghanistan is rife with such conspiracy theories. After last month's assassination of Kandahar's powerful police chief, Gen. Abdul Raziq, social media exploded with pictures and posts suggesting he was the victim of a U.S. conspiracy. Recent insider attacks, in which Afghan forces have killed their erstwhile U.S. and NATO allies, have attracted online praise.

"In 2001 the Afghan people supported the arrival of the United States and the international community wholeheartedly," said Hamid Karzai, who was installed as Afghanistan's first president and twice won re-election, serving until 2014.

"For a number of years things worked perfectly well," he said in a recent interview. "Then we saw the United States either changed course or simply neglected the views of the Afghan people and the conditions of the Afghans."

He blames the lingering war on the U.S. failure to eliminate militant sanctuaries in neighboring Pakistan, the bombing of Afghan villages and homes, and the detention of Afghans in raids.

Others blame the notoriously corrupt government, which Karzai headed for more than a decade, and which is widely seen as yet another bitter fruit of the American invasion.

"All the money that has come to this country has gone to the people in power. The poor people didn't get anything," said Hajji Akram, a day laborer in Kabul's Old City who struggles to feed his family on around $4 a day. "The foreigners are not making things better. They should go."

World

US hardens border at Tijuana to prepare for migrant caravan

IXTLAN DEL RIO, Mexico (AP)—The U.S. government said it was starting work Tuesday to "harden" the border crossing from Tijuana, Mexico, to prepare for the arrival of a migrant caravan leapfrogging its way across western Mexico.

Customs and Border Protection announced it was closing four lanes at the busy San Ysidro and Otay Mesa ports of entry in San Diego, California.

It said the closures were needed "to install and preposition port hardening infrastructure equipment in preparation for the migrant caravan and the potential safety and security risk that it could cause."

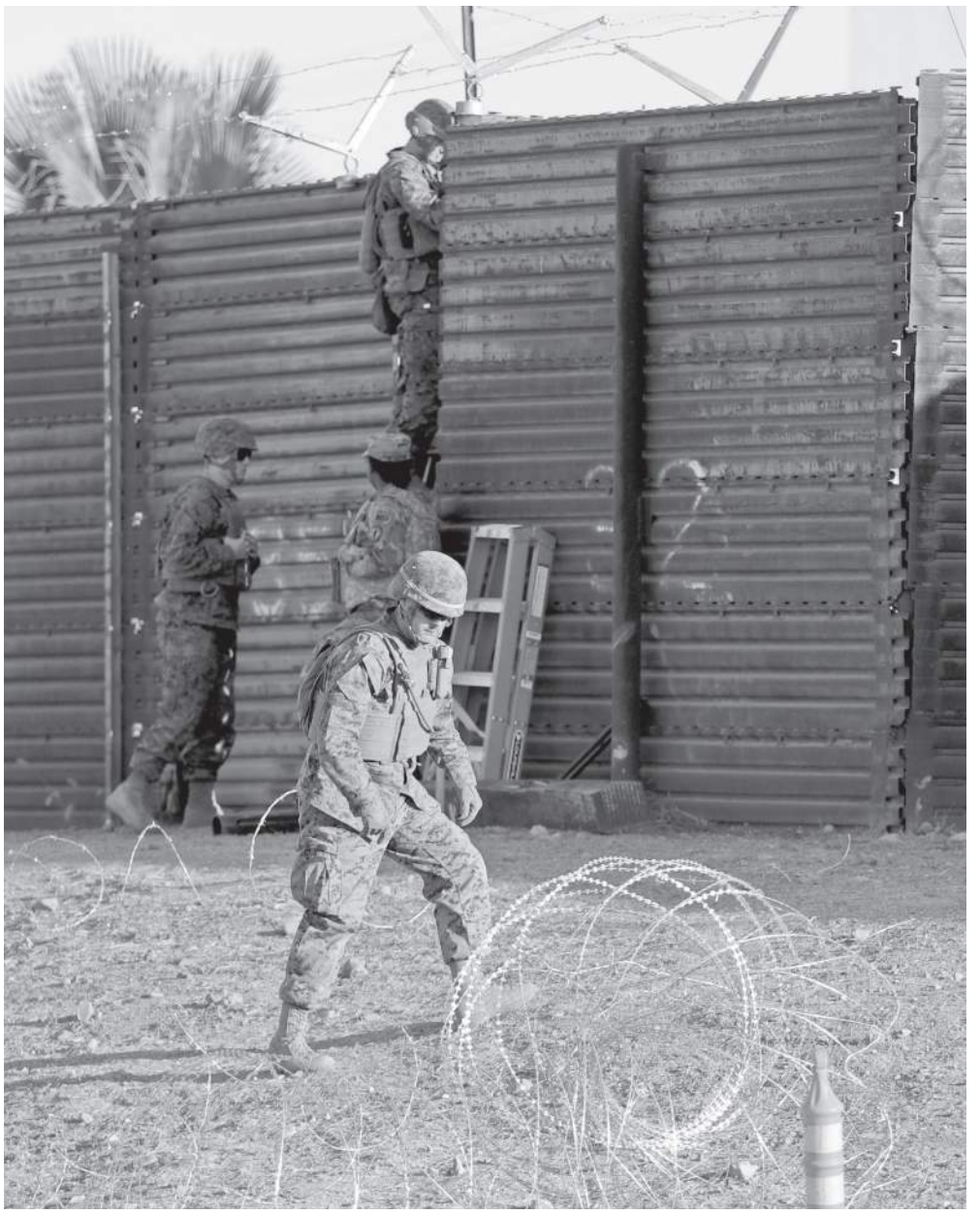
That still leaves a substantial path for the tens of thousands of people who cross daily: Twenty-three lanes remain open at San Ysidro and 12 at Otay Mesa.

San Ysidro is the border's busiest crossing, with about 110,000 people entering the U.S. every day. That traffic includes some 40,000 vehicles, 34,000 pedestrians and 150 to 200 buses.

A group of several hundred migrants moving ahead of the caravan made it to Tijuana on Tuesday aboard a fleet of buses.

The caravans became a campaign issue in U.S. midterm elections and U.S. President Donald Trump has ordered the deployment of over 5,000 military troops to the border to help fend off the migrants. Trump has insinuated without proof that there are criminals or even terrorists in the group.

To the thousands of Central American migrants making their way through Mexico's Pacific coast state of Nayarit, the prospect of meeting a hostile reception at the border is nothing new.



AP

Marines work to fortify the border structure that separates Tijuana, Mexico, and San Diego, near the San Ysidro Port of Entry, Friday, Nov. 9, 2018, in San Diego.

After a month on the road, through three countries, migrants like Maribel, 22, from La Ceiba, Honduras, are used to tough conditions.

Maribel, who did not want her last name used for fear of reprisals in Honduras, pushed a baby carriage with her 1-year-old daughter while her husband pushed another with their 3-year-old son along a highway leading from Guadalajara to the Nayarit state capital of Tepic. Few trucks passed, and migrants felt stranded.

"We are well aware of everything Trump has been saying," said Maribel. "Let them close whatever they want to close, but we are going to get through anyway."

About 1,300 migrants in a second caravan arrived in Mexico City, where they had their first day of rest in weeks Tuesday.

Roberto Hernandez, 39, a bricklayer from San Pedro Sula, Honduras, was finally able to get a shot of antibiotics for the fever he has had for two weeks. He was staying at the same tent shelters set up for the first caravan at a sports stadium in Mexico City.

"Ever since I left home I knew it wasn't going to be easy," said Hernandez, who sobbed quietly as he thought of the two sons, Mateo and Steven, he left at home. "They can put a million soldiers or whatever they want on the border, we are going to make the attempt to get across."

But things were especially tough for the first caravan. The estimated 6,000 Central Americans left shelters in Guadalajara early Tuesday and were taken by bus to a highway toll plaza to wait for rides to their next destination.

They thought other buses would be waiting for them to take them through hurricane-ravaged Nayarit to the neighboring state of Sinaloa, farther north. But no other buses showed up and few trucks passed to pick them up, leaving many to walk the 60 miles (90 kilometers) to the state line.

Maria Antonia Martinez, 40, of Ocotepeque trudged along with her 7-year-old daughter after failing to get a ride.

Civilians in Israel, Gaza feel helpless amid new fighting

ASHKELON, Israel (AP)—Loren Amar was watching TV with her father around midnight when an air-raid siren warning of incoming rocket fire blared through their working-class neighborhood in southern Israel.

Their old apartment had no in-house shelter, so they huddled in the stairway just before a rocket from Gaza slammed into the building next-door, sending shrapnel and debris flying into their bedrooms—and the 29-year-old Amar to the hospital with shock symptoms.

"The walls shook and the hallway filled with white smoke. It felt like an earthquake," she recalled Tuesday, a hospital identity tag still wrapped around her wrist. "The electricity went out and we didn't know whether to go up or down. I was hysterical."

It was the first lethal rocket attack from Gaza in years, and yet the only fatality was a Palestinian laborer from the West Bank. Two Israeli women were critically wounded.

In just 24 hours, Gaza militants fired more than 450 rockets and mortar shells into southern Israel, the most serious escalation since a 50-day war between Israel and Hamas in 2014. Israel responded with a wave of airstrikes it said targeted militants.

Residents angrily demanded the government restore calm for good, even if that means another war. Yet many people wearily expressed a sense of helplessness, as successive governments fail to come up with an effective policy to bring quiet to the Israel-Gaza frontier.

Hamas militants seized Gaza in 2007, triggering an Israeli-Egyptian border blockade that has choked the territory of 2 million people. Israel refuses to lift the blockade unless Hamas disarms, a demand the militants refuse. The volatile standoff has produced repeated rounds of violence, including indiscriminate Gaza rocket fire at Israeli border towns.

Word late Tuesday that Gaza militants agreed to a cease-fire was unlikely to sway people's minds that there is no long-term solution to the Gaza conundrum.

"I don't know how you stop this thing. Nothing helps. Whatever you do it always comes back," said Shlomit Hayat, 38.

She noted that the deadly violence came just days after Israel allowed Qatar to deliver $15 million in cash to Gaza to alleviate its economic hardship and after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he'd do everything he can to prevent an "unnecessary" war.

The latest fighting was triggered by a botched Israeli raid into Gaza on Sunday that set off clashes resulting in the deaths of seven Palestinian militants, including a local Hamas commander, and a senior Israeli military officer. Palestinian militant groups said the rocket barrage was a message to Israel that such incursions have a cost.

Gazans have similar fears when fighting breaks out. While Israel says it has confined its airstrikes to military targets, hundreds of Palestinian civilians have been killed in the three previous wars. For many in Gaza, the latest outbreak of fighting brought back fears that no place is truly safe in the densely populated territory.

WHO official predicts six more months battling Ebola in Congo

GENEVA (AP)—The emergencies chief for the World Health Organization predicted Tuesday that Congo's Ebola outbreak will last at least another six months, saying that informal health facilities have become "major drivers" of the current, deadly transmission.

Dr. Peter Salama said that makeshift "tradi-modern" health centers—offering both traditional and modern treatment—were believed to be linked to more than half of cases in Beni, the largest city affected by the current outbreak that has taken more than 200 lives.

Salama, who returned from a trip to Ebola-hit eastern Congo last week, said Tuesday it appeared "very likely" that some cases of Ebola had been misdiagnosed as malaria, because early symptoms are virtually identical.

He said that the WHO is planning on "at least another six months before we could declare this outbreak over."

In some cases, people appeared to have contracted Ebola while visiting the centers for other health concerns, Salama said.

He described the "tradi-modern" centers as popular but unregulated neighborhood facilities that vary from stand-alone structures to "just a room in someone's house."

Salama noted how many residents appear suspicious of foreigners, officials and outside organizations, but that many also believe in the effectiveness of injectable medicines. And when proper hygiene isn't respected—like through sharing of needles—conditions are more propitious for viruses like Ebola to spread.

"Probably more than 50 percent of cases in Beni have been driven from these tradi-modern health care facilities, and the fact that hygiene and injection practices in these areas are relatively unsafe," he said.

Salama said the current Ebola outbreak is "arguably the most difficult context that we've ever encountered," pointing to activities of two armed opposition groups in the region. The outbreak has been "amplified" by the health centers, he said.

Environment

Gene-edited food is coming, but will shoppers buy?

AP

Fred Gmitter, a geneticist at the University of Florida Citrus Research and Education Center, holds an orange affected by citrus greening disease at a grove in Fort Meade, Fla., on Sept. 27, 2018. "If we can go in and edit the gene, change the DNA sequence ever so slightly by one or two letters, potentially we'd have a way to defeat this disease," says Gmitter.

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The next generation of biotech food is headed for the grocery aisles, and first up may be salad dressings or granola bars made with soybean oil genetically tweaked to be good for your heart.

By early next year, the first foods from plants or animals that had their DNA "edited" are expected to begin selling. It's a different technology than today's controversial "genetically modified" foods, more like faster breeding that promises to boost nutrition, spur crop growth, and make farm animals hardier and fruits and vegetables last longer.

The U.S. National Academy of Sciences has declared gene editing one of the breakthroughs needed to improve food production so the world can feed billions more people amid a changing climate. Yet governments are wrestling with how to regulate this powerful new tool. And after years of confusion and rancor, will shoppers accept gene-edited foods or view them as GMOs in disguise?

"If the consumer sees the benefit, I think they'll embrace the products and worry less about the technology," said Dan Voytas, a University of Minnesota professor and chief science officer for Calyxt Inc., which edited soybeans to make the oil heart-healthy.

Researchers are pursuing more ambitious changes: Wheat with triple the usual fiber, or that's low in gluten. Mushrooms that don't brown, and better-producing tomatoes. Drought-tolerant corn, and rice that no longer absorbs soil pollution as it grows. Dairy cows that don't need to undergo painful de-horning, and pigs immune to a dangerous virus that can sweep through herds.

Scientists even hope gene editing eventually could save species from being wiped out by devastating diseases like citrus greening, a so far unstoppable infection that's destroying Florida's famed oranges.

First they must find genes that could make a new generation of trees immune.

"If we can go in and edit the gene, change the DNA sequence ever so slightly by one or two letters, potentially we'd have a way to defeat this disease," said Fred Gmitter, a geneticist at the University of Florida Citrus Research and Education Center, as he examined diseased trees in a grove near Fort Meade.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED OR EDITED, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Farmers have long genetically manipulated crops and animals by selectively breeding to get offspring with certain traits. It's time-consuming and can bring trade-offs. Modern tomatoes, for example, are larger than their pea-sized wild ancestor, but the generations of cross-breeding made them more fragile and altered their nutrients.

GMOs, or genetically modified organisms, are plants or animals that were mixed with another species' DNA to introduce a specific trait they're "transgenic." Best known are corn and soybeans mixed with bacterial genes for built-in resistance to pests or weed killers.

Despite international scientific consensus that GMOs are safe to eat, some people remain wary and there is concern they could spur herbicide-resistant weeds.

Now gene-editing tools, with names like CRISPR and TALENs, promise to alter foods more precisely, and cheaply without necessarily adding foreign DNA. Instead, they act like molecular scissors to alter the letters of an organism's own genetic alphabet.

The technology can insert new DNA, but most products in development so far switch off a gene, according to University of Missouri professor Nicholas Kalaitzandonakes.

Those new Calyxt soybeans? Voytas' team inactivated two genes so the beans produce oil with no heart-damaging trans fat and that shares the famed health profile of olive oil without its distinct taste.

The hornless calves? Most dairy Holsteins grow horns that are removed for the safety of farmers and other cows. Recombinetics Inc. swapped part of the gene that makes dairy cows grow horns with the DNA instructions from naturally hornless Angus beef cattle.

"Precision breeding," is how animal geneticist Alison Van Eenennaam of the University of California, Davis, explains it. "This isn't going to replace traditional breeding," but make it easier to add one more trait.

RULES AREN'T CLEAR

The Agriculture Department says extra rules aren't needed for "plants that could otherwise have been developed through traditional breeding," clearing the way for development of about two dozen gene-edited crops so far.

In contrast, the Food and Drug Administration in 2017 proposed tighter, drug-like restrictions on gene-edited animals. It promises guidance sometime next year on exactly how it will proceed.

Because of trade, international regulations are "the most important factor in whether genome editing technologies are commercialized," USDA's Paul Spencer told a meeting of agriculture economists.

Europe's highest court ruled last summer that existing European curbs on the sale of transgenic GMOs should apply to gene-edited foods, too.

But at the World Trade Organization this month, the U.S. joined 12 nations including Australia, Canada, Argentina and Brazil in urging other countries to adopt internationally consistent, science-based rules for gene-edited agriculture.

ARE THESE FOODS SAFE?

The biggest concern is what are called off-target edits, unintended changes to DNA that could affect a crop's nutritional value or an animal's health, said Jennifer Kuzma of the Genetic Engineering and Society Center at North Carolina State University.

Scientists are looking for any signs of problems. Take the hornless calves munching in a UC-Davis field. One is female and once it begins producing milk, Van Eenennaam will test how similar that milk's fat and protein composition is to milk from unaltered cows.

"We're kind of being overly cautious," she said, noting that if eating beef from naturally hornless Angus cattle is fine, milk from edited Holsteins should be, too.

But to Kuzma, companies will have to be upfront about how these new foods were made and the evidence that they're healthy. She wants regulators to decide case-by-case which changes are no big deal, and which might need more scrutiny.

"Most gene edited plants and animals are probably going to be just fine to eat. But you're only going to do yourself a disservice in the long run if you hide behind the terminology," Kuzma said.

AVOIDING A BACKLASH

Uncertainty about regulatory and consumer reaction is creating some strange bedfellows. An industry-backed group of food makers and farmers asked university researchers and consumer advocates to help craft guidelines for "responsible use" of gene editing in the food supply.

"Clearly this coalition is in existence because of some of the battle scars from the GMO debates, there's no question about that," said Greg Jaffe of the food-safety watchdog Center for Science in the Public Interest, who agreed to join the Center for Food Integrity's guidelines group. "There's clearly going to be questions raised about this technology."

SUSTAINABILITY OR HYPE?

Gene-editing can't do everything, cautioned Calyxt's Voytas. There are limitations to how much foods could be changed. Sure, scientists made wheat containing less gluten, but it's unlikely to ever be totally gluten-free for people who can't digest that protein, for example — or to make, say, allergy-free peanuts.

Nor is it clear how easily companies will be able to edit different kinds of food, key to their profit.

Despite her concerns about adequate regulation, Kuzma expects about 20 gene-edited crops to hit the U.S. market over five years — and she notes that scientists also are exploring changes to crops like cassava that important in the poorest countries.

"We think it's going to really revolutionize the industry," she said.

Life & Style

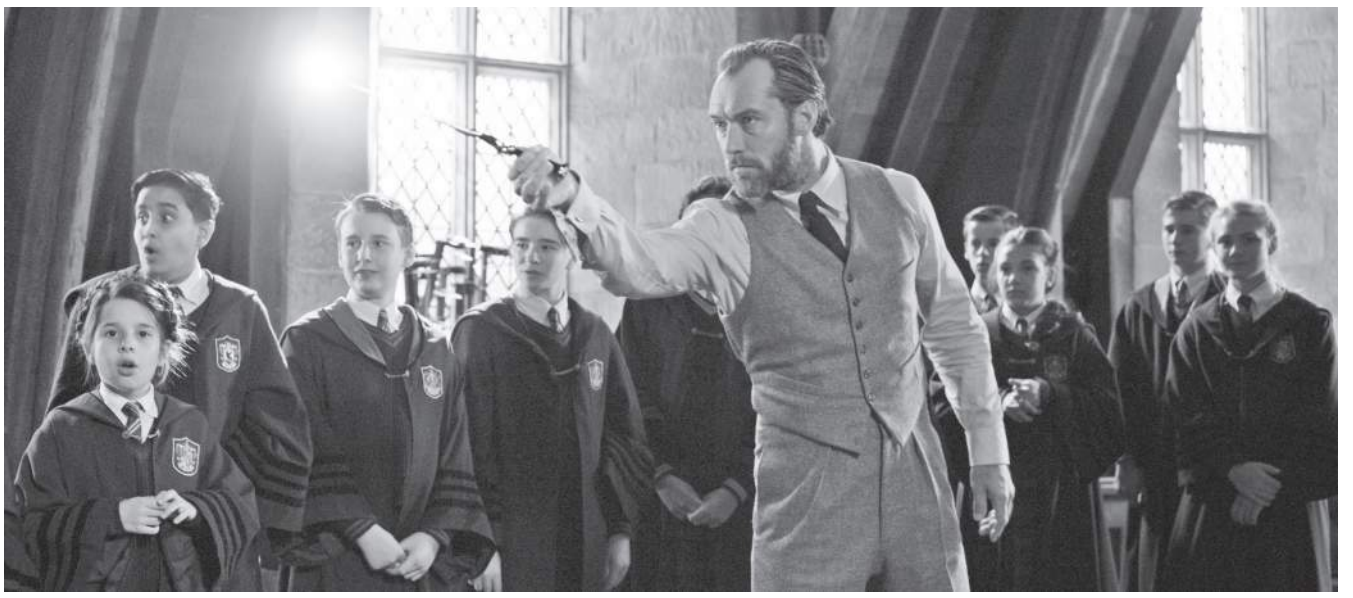
With J.K. Rowling's help, Jude Law builds a new Dumbledore

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When Jude Law met with J.K. Rowling about portraying the younger version of Albus Dumbledore, the two discussed how to rebuild the fan-favorite character from the "Harry Potter" films.

Law spent an afternoon jotting down notes from Rowling who talked to him about Dumbledore's life before becoming the world's most powerful wizard. The British actor walked away with a vote of confidence from the famed author, alleviating some pressure on him.

"When the boss says 'I like you,' it gives you a little bit of comfort," Law said of Rowling, screenwriter of the "Harry Potter" prequel series that is based on her 2001 book "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them." "You can't help but step into something like this, playing a part like this without feeling a sense of responsibility, a fear of letting someone down. But when the creator gives you the thumbs up, it's a blessing."

Dumbledore was a Hogwarts headmaster in the "Potter" franchise commonly known for his silver hair and long beard, sporting a loose robe. He was played by Michael Gambon after inheriting the role from the Richard Harris, who died in 2002.



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Jude Law in a scene from "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald." AP

Eddie Redmayne shares his excitement about his first day on set opposite Jude Law's Dumbledore, while Katherine Waterston says the new movie's links to "Harry Potter" are strong. (Nov. 8)

Law's youthful version enters in his mid-40s wearing a three-piece suit with short auburn hair in the sequel "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald ," which will be released Friday. It's the second part of a five-film franchise that started with 2016's "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," which grossed $813 million worldwide.

In "Grindelwald," Law's character works with his former student Eddie Redmayne's Newt Scamander to thwart the divisive wizard leader Gellert Grindelwald, played by Johnny Depp. The film also stars Katherine Waterston, Zoe Kravitz and Ezra Miller.

For research, Law read several Harry Potter books that referenced Dumbledore, rather than solely watching the previous films featuring the elder character. With the help of Rowling and director David Yates, they wanted to build from the "ground up."

"I was then given the opportunity to create him without feeling the pressure to mimic or impersonate or indeed hang the character too much on past representations by the other actors," Law said. "There were certain traits I wanted to include. I loved his humor, the twinkle he had. He sees the good in almost everyone. He has a good heart. But I was able to layer him up a little more."

Redmayne said the studio perfectly cast Law as Dumbledore, who doesn't necessarily show his true powers and appears only in about six scenes—most of which are interactions with Scamander.

"Being a formidable, formidable actor with great gravitas and weight and yet at the same time, he has this kind of playful quality," Redmayne said of Law. "And I'll never forget our first scene, which was the first time we see each other in the film. I just saw his back, basically. And the way he turned around, it was instant. It was like in one look, he had managed to inhabit that. I hadn't had any expectations about Dumbledore. But somehow it was solidified in one look."

The sequel picks up after Grindelwald was captured by the Magical Congress of the United States of America with the aid of Newt at the end of the first film. But the villainous wizard finds a way to escape custody and assembles a group of pureblood wizards who support him to rule over all humans in 1920s Paris.

Law says the film opens the door to many dramatic paths and explores a more troubled time in Dumbledore's life along with his once-close relationship with Grindelwald.

Rowling announced in 2007 that Dumbledore is gay after the release of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows," the final book in the series. Some on social media criticized the author's decision to unveil and tinker with the beloved character's sexuality, but she has defended her actions.

Law assures the story is more focused on his character's complicated relationship with Grindelwald from decades ago, rather than Dumbledore's sexuality.

"His sexuality doesn't define him, but the relationship with Grindelwald does," Law said. "I believe, and (Rowling) would agree, that Albus had many intimate relationships. And the one he has is the love of his life, which is damaged. It becomes even poisonous and sends the two of them in opposite directions. He's now in his middle age, around my age 45, and he's still recovering from a relationship that he's trying to work out from when he was 20. That's a long time. I could barely remember what life was like when I was 20."

Glamour magazine honors Teigen, Monae, Gonzalez and Raisman

NEW YORK CITY (AP)—Powerful and influential women from all walks of life smiled and hugged at the 2018 Glamour Women of the Year Awards on Monday, but the devastating wildfires on the other side of the country were on a lot of minds.

Actress Alicia Silverstone had first-hand knowledge of how devastating the fires are. "I know a lot of people who were affected and evacuated and some are still holding ground and not leaving. It's really bad," she said.

"This is happening because we have a problem: global warming, and we must address it. We've been talking about this for a very long time. Brilliant scientists have been talking about this for a very long time. We have a very short window where we can make change so must do it."

The awards—celebrating "game changers, rule breakers and trailblazers"—included honorees such as Chrissy Teigen, Janelle Monae, Emma Gonzalez and Aly Raisman, as well as presenters such as Claire Danes, John Legend, Lupita Nyong'o and Padma Lakshmi.

MJ Rodriguez, who presented Monae's award, said being around so many strong women was encouraging. "I get to be around women who have implemented so much change in the world, not only through their art, but through their works, their action," Rodriqguez said. "So, to be around strong women like that, it makes me feel like I'm doing something right."

At the Glamour Women of the Year Awards, Chrissy Teigen talks about the year of the woman, Janelle Monae hypes Michelle Obama's memoir, while Alicia Silverstone urges personal action on climate change. (Nov. 13)

Another woman getting high praise, although not in attendance, was former first lady Michelle Obama. Monae said she can't wait to read her new memoir, "Becoming."

Actress Paz de la Huerta sues Harvey Weinstein, alleges rape

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actress Paz de la Huerta filed a lawsuit Tuesday accusing disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein of raping her in 2010 and then embarking on a campaign of harassment that harmed her career.

The lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court alleges Weinstein raped de la Huerta twice in New York in December 2010, taunting her with phone calls between the two assaults. New York police said a year ago that they were investigating de la Huerta's allegations. No charges have been filed in the case, but Weinstein is charged there with the rape of another woman.

Weinstein

In a new allegation, the suit states that the following month Weinstein exposed himself to the actress in a Beverly Hills hotel when she went to confront him. She alleges Weinstein tried to get de la Huerta to have a sexual encounter with him and another woman.

About a year after the incidents, de la Huerta was fired from the HBO show "Boardwalk Empire," and the lawsuit states she has reason to believe Weinstein was involved. It cites a photo that appeared in The New York Times of Weinstein talking to Martin Scorsese, a director and executive producer on the show, a few weeks before her firing.

Weinstein's attorney Ben Brafman in response to the suit pointed out the lack of charges in New York, and said in an emailed statement that de la Huerta's "newly minted version of events including her new California claims are equally preposterous and unfortunately, the product of an unstable personality with a vivid imagination."

Representatives for Scorsese, who is not a defendant in the case, had no immediate comment.

De la Huerta, 34, alleges Weinstein damaged her career by at least $60 million.

CNN sues Trump, demanding return of Acosta to White House

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN took its access battle against the Trump administration to court on Tuesday, demanding the reinstatement of correspondent Jim Acosta's White House credentials because their revocation violates the right of freedom of the press.

Acosta

Besides seeking an injunction to let Acosta return immediately, CNN is launching a case that will test the ability of government officials anywhere to freeze out a reporter who displeases them.

The White House, never shy about picking a fight with CNN, says bring it on.

"This is just more grandstanding from CNN, and we will vigorously defend against this lawsuit," said White House press secretary Sarah Sanders.

The administration stripped Acosta of his pass following President Donald Trump's contentious news conference last week, during which Acosta refused to give up a microphone when the president said he didn't want to hear anything more from him.

Sanders initially explained the decision by accusing Acosta of making improper physical contact with the intern seeking to grab the microphone. But that rationale disappeared after witnesses backed Acosta's account that he was just trying to keep the mic, and Sanders distributed a doctored video that made it appear Acosta was more aggressive than he actually was.

Trump called Acosta a "rude, terrible person," and Sanders on Tuesday accused Acosta of being unprofessional by trying to dominate the questioning at the news conference.

For its part, CNN believes the White House is trying to silence a reporter.

'Game of Thrones' returning in April 2019 for final season

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The eighth and last season of "Game of Thrones" finally has a date with destiny.

HBO said Tuesday that the series will return in April 2019 with six episodes to conclude its run.

The fantasy series based on the George R.R. Martin novels has been one of HBO's most successful shows.

A video touting the show's return next year included clips from seasons past showing both living and dead competitors for the crown of Westeros but didn't give a taste of the final episodes.

HBO isn't getting out of the "Game of Thrones" business. A prequel created by Martin and writer-producer Jane Goldman is underway, with Naomi Watts set to star, and other spinoffs are possible.

AP

This image released by HBO shows Kit Harington, left, and Emilia Clarke on the season finale of "Game of Thrones."

Cyrus, Hemsworth donate $500K after losing home in wildfire

NEW YORK (AP)—Though Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth lost their home in a deadly California wildfire, they are donating $500,000 to The Malibu Foundation through Cyrus' charity, The Happy Hippie Foundation.

"Miley and Liam lost their home but are very grateful to be safe along with their animals! Their community and state are very special to them and they want to give back to the place that has created so many beautiful memories for themselves and others," a representative for Cyrus said Tuesday in a statement to The Associated Press.

The couple's home was in Malibu and the statement said they hope their donation can "restore Malibu's magic." Fires have been burning swaths of southern California since Thursday, forcing evacuations and threatened thousands of homes.

"These funds will be used for those in financial need, emergency relief assistance, community rebuilding, wildfire prevention and climate change resilience," the statement read.

Michael Buble returns with 'love' album

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Michael Buble says though his cancer-stricken son aspires to have superhuman powers, he's already a superhero in his eyes.

"He loves Spiderman, he loves Superman, but they are not real," Buble said of 5-year-old Noah. "I tell him all the time that he's my superhero. He is literally the greatest, strongest (and) most beautiful thing I've ever been a part of."

Buble said Noah, who was diagnosed with cancer in 2016, taught him how to overcome adversity. The stress of his son's condition coupled with him losing his desire to make music contributed to the two-year break he took to focus on his son's treatment and spend more time with family.

But Buble said in time things got back to normal with Noah beginning kindergarten. He said his son is "holding up well."

Now, the Grammy-winning singer returns to music with his 10th album, "love," out on Friday. He ultimately found his groove after inviting some of his band members to his home.

Buble

"I said, 'Come to the house, let's get drunk, eat pizza and play Mario Kart,'" he recalled. "And then when we were all toasted. We were like, 'Yeah, let's jam.' And then we started to jam."

"I was like, 'Aww man, this is my happy place,'" he continued.

Singer Michael Buble talks about returning to music after spending the last two years with son Noah, who was diagnosed with cancer in 2016. (Nov. 12)

Buble said his new album will provide a snapshot into his mindset during the past couple years. He also will offer his perspective on love, which he calls a "complicated word."

"I think it reflects my sense of romance or how sentimental I am," he said. "It obviously reflects a lot of pain that I felt, feel and go through. It was kind of therapeutic for me. To be able to invest and get right into the song and tell the story of both sides of this word and this feeling that means something to all of us."

These days, Buble said he is trying to mediate and pray as often as possible to stay positive. He also wants to continue to spread love through his music.

"My favorite thing about music is that it's open for interpretation," he said. "I hope some people fall in love. I hope someone who is going through a horrible time is carried through to the next day. I sure hope some babies can be made to it. We need more baby-making music."

Michelle Obama begins arena tour in talk with Oprah

CHICAGO (AP)—Michelle Obama has officially begun her 12-stop tour to promote her new book, "Becoming," by sitting for a conversation with Oprah Winfrey at the home arena of the Chicago Bulls.

The crowd of 14,000 roared as the former first lady stepped onto a stage late Tuesday at the sold-out United Center. The event felt part music concert, part talk show and part political rally.

At the start, she described the day she and her family left the White House and got on a plane. She said she cried for 30 minutes from relief after "eight years trying to do everything perfectly."

Her other stops include Los Angeles, Detroit and Paris.

Her just-released memoir is already a best-seller. It topped Amazon.com's best-seller list throughout the weekend.

Trumps to skip Kennedy Center Honors for 2nd straight year

NEW YORK (AP)—For the second straight year, President Donald Trump will not be attending the Kennedy Center Honors celebrating cultural achievement.

Neither Trump nor first lady Melania Trump will be at the Dec. 2 event, Stephanie Grisham, the first lady's director of communications, said Tuesday.

Grisham also told The Associated Press that it was "not likely" any new winners of the National Medal of Arts, National Humanities Medal or National Medal of Science would be announced before the end of the year. She said the remaining weeks of 2018 are "the busiest time of the year for the East Wing."

The announcement continues the Trump administration's unprecedented distance from the arts and science communities. No arts or humanities medals have been announced or handed out since September 2016, when Barack Obama was president—the longest gap by months since the awards were established in the mid-1980s. No science medals have been given since May 2016.

A former head of the National Endowment for the Arts, which oversees the nominating process for the arts medal, said he was dismayed.

"The current administration's disregard for culture and scholarship, as well as presidential tradition, is an embarrassment," Dana Gioia, chairman of the NEA from 2003 to 2009, told the AP.

Other presidents, including Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, have missed Kennedy Center ceremonies. Trump is the first to miss them twice. Grisham cited scheduling conflicts: Trump is expected to attend the G20 summit in Argentina at the end of the month. Had he gone to the Kennedy Center, it's unlikely he would have been warmly welcomed by at least some of the honorees, who include Cher and "Hamilton" playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda, both sharp critics of the president.

Friendship between moms ends over race for charity

DEAR ABBY: The 14-year-old son of a friend of mine is having self-esteem issues and apparently is going through a very rough patch. Our family likes to participate in charity races. My boy, 13, is a talented athlete who, according to my friend, is an "overachiever."

My friend signed her family up for the same race as our family, then called me afterward to tell me she was having anxiety issues about us being there and asked me to forgo the race. (We had already paid for four registrations.) She said she could see my child taking off, winning the race and boasting to the point where her child would feel like a loser and have more self-esteem issues.

Abby, although our children hung out together when they were toddlers, they haven't in years. I tried to be sympathetic, but told her we had been planning to compete in this race as a family for some time, and I didn't think it would be right to pull my child out of something he loves to do. She got very upset, said some horrible things to me and ended our friendship. Was I wrong not to agree to do as she asked for the sake of her child?

ROUGH PATCH IN THE WEST

DEAR ROUGH PATCH: I don't think you were wrong. While I sympathize with your former friend, what she suggested was not helpful for her child, who might benefit more from some sessions with a therapist than a helicopter mom trying to cushion life for him.

However, if there's any truth to your friend's inference that your son is not a GRACIOUS winner, monitor his behavior to make sure he doesn't come across as a braggart. If you do, you'll be doing him a favor.

DEAR ABBY: When I was a teenager, I met a guy I'll call "Jordan" at a college summer program and fell head over heels in love with him. But the program lasted only five weeks, and we lived hours apart. We decided from the beginning that we wouldn't attempt a long-distance relationship and would simply enjoy the time we had together.

That fall, my senior year, I visited Boston to look at colleges. I had made plans to see him, but he blew me off. Because I never got closure, I was not able to let him go emotionally.

During my sophomore year of college, Jordan contacted me and asked if we could meet. I refused because I had just met someone else, and didn't want to jeopardize my new relationship. I was with that guy for five years and almost married him. (Our breakup had nothing to do with Jordan.)

It is nearly a decade later, and I have met someone I could fall in love with. But it seems that I'm still not completely over Jordan. Should I reach out to him and try to get the closure I need?

LEFT HANGING ON THE EAST COAST

DEAR LEFT HANGING: Yes. After all these years, it's time. And when you do, tell him the greatest gift he could give you would be the gift of closure. If he's a gentleman, he will agree. And when you get it, move forward and don't look back.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

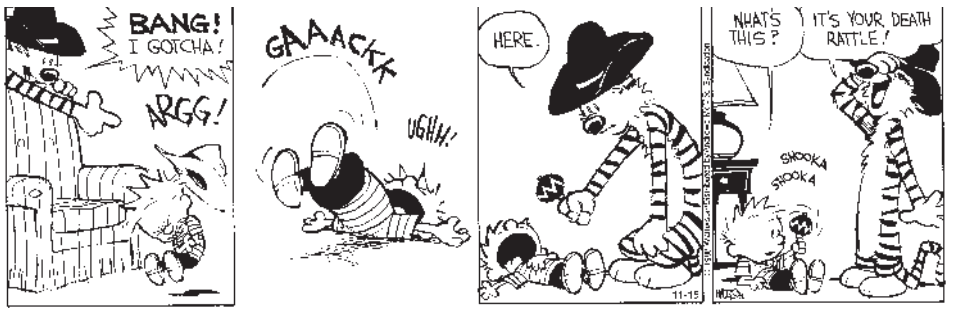
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

NOW WE DON'T HAVE TO BAG ALL THE LEAVES. WE JUST THROW 'EM IN.
AND THE JET ENGINE SPITS 'EM OUT IN A FINE SPRAY.
TURN IT ON!
MAYBE YOU SHOULD STAND, LIKE, 200 YARDS THAT WAY.
SAFETY FIRST!
11/15

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

PLEASE HOLD. YOUR CALL IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US.
AND TO PROVE IT, WE'RE GOING TO INTERRUPT THE MUSIC EVERY TWO MINUTES TO REPEAT THIS MESSAGE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Middle of a game?
4 Shower bar?
8 Mexican money
12 Actress Lupino
13 Chaste
14 Author Ferber
15 Run for office
17 Pace
18 Some coll. degrees
19 Highway entrances
21 Inclement
24 "You bet!"
25 Brick carrier
26 — Paulo
28 Stanley of "Big Night"
32 Saharan
34 Spring month
36 Satirist Mort
37 Bike components
39 Dandy guy
41 — de mer
42 Cartesian conclusion
44 Bets
46 Equine homes
50 Roofing goo
51 Pyramid, maybe
52 Victoria's Secret buy
56 Russian river
57 "Arrivederci!"
58 Odometer start
59 Memorandum
60 Regrettably
61 Dijon denial

DOWN

1 Nervous habit
2 Nabokov novel
3 Thailand's neighbor
4 Twitches
5 French assent
6 Jason's ship
7 Lincoln's coin
8 Flying horse
9 Wax-coated cheese
10 Use scissors
11 Feedbag fill
16 Standard
20 Pensioned (Abbr.)
21 Carpet type
22 Ripped
23 Candied veggie
27 Klutz
29 Land next to Nigeria
30 Scorch
31 Misfortunes
33 Bounce a basketball
35 "That hurts!"
38 Erie Canal mule
40 Cookout spots
43 Pilgrimage site
45 Cooking fuel
46 Dazzle
47 Corrida charger
48 Latin 101 word
49 Go to sea
53 Goat's cry
54 Privy
55 Long time

Solution time: 24 mins.

C	U	F	■	D	F	A	N	■	I	A	M	A
A	S	S	■	U	R	S	A	■	O	V	E	R
R	E	A	■	G	R	A	P	E	V	I	N	E
B	R	U	N	O	■	■	A	L	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	P	U	T	T	■	F	L	A	S	H
P	E	A	R	T	R	E	E	■	Y	M	C	A
E	L	M	■	S	A	L	M	A	■	M	A	T
I	I	E	S	■	P	L	U	M	J	C	B	S
S	A	N	■	A	■	A	S	E	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	B	U	■	■	N	Y	L	O	N
A	P	P	L	E	S	E	E	D	■	C	L	E
O	H	A	L	■	S	L	O	E	■	S	A	X
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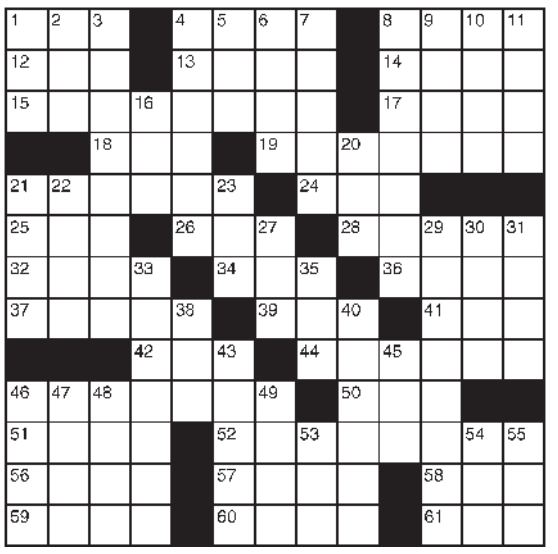
Yesterday's answer 11-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shailene Woodley, 27; Jonny Lee Miller, 46; Beverly D'Angelo, 67; Sam Waterston, 78.

Happy Birthday: Put more energy into home, family and bringing about positive changes that will make you happy. Don't wait for someone else to make suggestions. Look at the possibilities and find the best way to move forward. It's up to you to decide what's in your best interest. Consider how best to make personal improvements that will build your confidence, strength and courage. Your numbers are 4, 11, 16, 23, 32, 38, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Look over contracts and your financial situations; you'll discover a hidden opportunity. Rely on your own resources to figure out your best move. A heart-to-heart talk with someone you love will be helpful. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Research your options before making a change. Talk to people you have worked with or who can give you expert advice. Knowing what you are up against will make it easier to decide what's best for you. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't make a big deal out of nothing. Stay calm and let situations play out naturally. Go about your business and make whatever changes suit you without drawing attention to what you are doing. Don't mislead others or share information. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Do your thing. What you provide will be unique and draw interest from someone who is in a position to help you excel. Your knowledge and experience will encourage others to listen as well as pitch in and help. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Look at the big picture and get involved in the things you feel will make the biggest difference. Your input, generosity and physical help will result in recognition and an opportunity to make positive changes to your lifestyle. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Step up and do your part. Get involved in something that encourages personal growth. Bonding with people who can be beneficial to your future is in your best interest. Don't let personal matters stand between you and your success. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take care of your responsibilities first or someone will make a fuss. Once you have taken care of business, you can concentrate on the things and the people you enjoy the most. A change to your status looks promising. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Spend more time dealing with personal matters. If someone questions your integrity, stay calm and stick to the facts. Anger will not help you or your situation. Be willing to compromise and to work in conjunction with others to make worthwhile changes. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Think big but stick to what's reasonable as well as in your budget. Don't let anyone entice you into taking on too much or you'll set yourself up for failure. Baby steps and thought-out plans are favored. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep moving forward, but keep your eye on what's going on around you. An unexpected change at home or with regard to your position could easily broadside you if you don't pay attention. Ask questions and verify facts. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put some passion into whatever you decide to take on. Listen carefully to what's said and promised. A verbal agreement should be put on paper to avoid any misgivings. A personal change, gift or financial gain is heading your way. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Offer your services, skills and knowledge to a cause and you will make a difference, but don't let anyone take you for granted. Make it clear what you are willing to do and what it will take. Being up-front will be necessary. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are innovative, excitable and persistent. You are entertaining and changeable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8				3	5			7
	9	7	4			6	1	
2				5			4	
1								8
	8			4				5
	4	6			9	2	8	
7			6	2				4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/15

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

8	9	5	2	4	6	3	7	1
6	1	4	3	5	7	2	8	9
7	3	2	8	9	1	4	5	6
5	8	3	4	7	9	6	1	2
4	7	1	6	2	5	8	9	3
2	6	9	1	8	3	7	4	5
1	4	7	9	3	2	5	6	8
3	5	6	7	1	8	9	2	4
9	2	8	5	6	4	1	3	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

MICROBLADING **Solution: 9 letters**

T	G	E	S	T	O	N	E	N	T	N	E	I	L	C
N	N	Y	K	N	T	L	E	O	G	E	G	E	L	S
E	I	E	I	I	Y	K	O	R	L	L	N	E	S	E
M	R	B	N	T	R	L	O	I	A	T	I	D	C	D
G	E	R	S	A	A	O	C	Y	C	Ⓢ	R	A	I	A
I	H	O	D	S	M	N	E	H	Ⓟ	I	F	F	T	L
P	T	W	N	E	E	R	G	Ⓐ	Y	T	U	A	E	B
D	A	S	D	P	T	N	E	L	I	R	L	C	H	F
R	E	S	H	A	P	E	K	P	E	A	L	I	T	A
S	F	N	T	M	A	E	R	C	I	S	E	T	S	C
T	B	T	S	H	A	D	E	Q	I	M	R	E	E	I
R	O	H	A	I	R	O	L	O	C	H	E	M	N	A
O	L	A	R	U	T	A	N	G	N	I	T	S	A	L
K	D	E	P	T	H	Y	U	P	U	E	S	O	L	C
E	M	B	R	O	I	D	E	R	Y	E	H	C	R	A

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Anesthetics, Angles, Arch, Artist, Beauty, Blade, Bold, Client, Close-up, Color, Cosmetic, Cream, Darken, Density, Depth, Embroidery, Eyebrows, Facial, Fade, Feathering, Fringe, Fuller, Gels, Groomed, Hair, Lasting, Layer, Natural, Pencil, Pigment, Reshape, Semi-permanent, Shade, Skin, Spa, Stroke, Style, Tattoo, Thickness, Tint, Tone, Tool

Yesterday's Answer: Philippines

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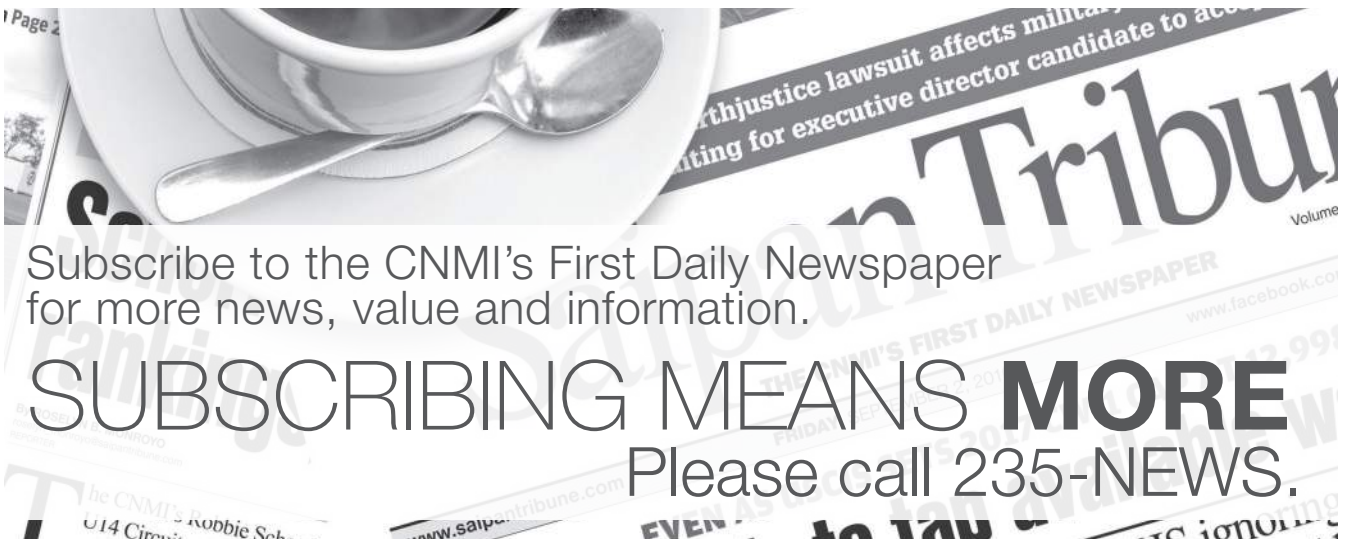
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Durant leads undermanned Warriors past Hawks

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 29 points with a key jumper in the final minute, a day after a shouting episode on the bench with Draymond Green led to his teammate's suspension Tuesday, and the undermanned Golden State Warriors held off the Atlanta Hawks 110-103.

Klay Thompson added 24 points as Splash Brother Stephen Curry missed his third straight game with a strained left groin. The two-time MVP shuffled and danced as he celebrated big plays from the bench.

Taurean Prince scored 22 points, making four 3-pointers and finishing 8 for 14 from the floor in the Hawks' fifth straight loss and ninth in 10.

Durant led the way hours after the Warriors suspended All-Star Green for one game without pay for conduct detrimental to the team. He got into it with Durant on the bench at the end of regulation in a 121-116 overtime road loss to the Clippers and Green wasn't even at the arena Tuesday.

Jonas Jerebko started in place of Green and had season bests of 14 points and 14 rebounds as the Warriors stayed unbeaten in the second game of a back-to-back this season. Quinn Cook dished out six of Golden State's 28 assists playing in Curry's spot.

Dazzling Atlanta rookie Trae Young was held to four points on 2-for-12 shooting and missed all five of his attempts from beyond the arc. The Hawks dropped their eighth straight to the Warriors and seventh in a row at Oracle Arena.

Golden State shot 6 for 21 in the opening quarter, missing 7 of 9 3-point tries.

Atlanta hasn't won on Golden State's home floor since a 95-79 victory on Feb. 25, 2011, and not in the series since Feb. 6, 2015. The Hawks are 1-7 on the road, 0-3 vs. the Western Conference. Prince has hit at least one 3 in his first 13 games.

Warriors: Durant made all 11 of his free throws and grabbed six rebounds. ... Jerebko posted his 11th career double-double. Golden State is 40-60 all-time without Curry, 23-19 since 2014-15. The Warriors are 3-0 in the second game playing consecutive nights. Golden State sold out for the 300th consecutive game, the fourth-longest active streak in the NBA.

Behind the scenes, a few more Warriors championship rings were delivered.

Former athletic trainer Chelsea Lane returned to Oracle with Atlanta and so did ex-Warriors performance coach and therapist Michael Irr and former assistant athletic trainer John Dusel.

Lane, who was key to getting Curry back on the court for the playoffs, left the organization after the latest championship run to become Atlanta's executive director of athletic performance and sports medicine.

Warriors general manager and assistant GM Kirk Lacob presented the rings outside Atlanta's locker room during pregame warmups.

Lane joked about texting a photo of her ring to departed center Zaza Pachulia, who won't return to Oracle until late March with his new Pistons team to get his sparkling jewelry.

AP

Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots against Atlanta Hawks forward Taurean Prince (12) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Oakland, Calif., Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018.

Cavaliers 113, Hornets 89

In Cleveland, the Cavaliers are dealing with so many injuries they needed an assistant coach to suit up for practice Monday.

A little over 24 hours later they did just fine with their healthy players.

Jordan Clarkson scored 24 points, Tristan Thompson had 21 rebounds and 11 points, and Cleveland won for the second time this season, beating the Charlotte Hornets.

The Cavaliers (2-11) broke a five-game losing streak. Cleveland's first win came against Atlanta on Oct. 30.

Cleveland's injury list grew longer while the losses piled up. Forwards Kyle Korver (sore right foot) and Cedi Osman (back spasms) didn't play Tuesday and are the most recent additions.

All-Star forward Kevin Love (foot surgery), starting point guard George Hill (hamstring) and forward Sam Dekker (ankle) have also been sidelined.

Cavaliers coach Larry Drew gave a rundown of the team's injuries in his pregame media session and then asked, "Who'm I missing? Is that it?"

Thompson was a key member of the team that went to four straight NBA Finals and won the championship in 2016. Despite the injuries and early season drama that included coach Tyronn Lue being fired after an 0-6 start, he knows the players must keep their heads up.

"We've got to," he said. "This is the NBA. We can't feel sorry for ourselves. It's a month into the season. We have to keep pushing and keep getting better."

Kemba Walker, the league's third-leading scorer, was held to a season-low seven points and was 2 for 16 from the field. The Hornets star guard was averaging 27.9 points going into the game.

Rockets 109, Nuggets 99

In Denver, James Harden turned a slow start into a powerful finish.

Harden scored 19 of his 22 points in the second half and the Houston Rockets pulled away to beat Denver, sending the Nuggets to a fourth straight loss.

Harden also had 11 assists, with several going to Clint Capela, who led the Rockets with 24 points, including a series of dunks.

"I just take what the defense gives me," Harden said. "I trusted the guys to make the right passes. Our bigs did a great job of finding those passing pockets. It requires patience, especially as a playmaker.

"It's going to take time, but we're getting there. If we keep guarding and defending at a high level our offense will come around. Once we put both together, it's going to get scary."

Chris Paul added 21 points for Houston, playing a third straight game without Carmelo Anthony because of what the team said was an illness.

Houston, which had an NBA-high 65 wins last season, has won five of seven games since a 1-5 start.

"It's starting to roll a little bit better," Houston coach Mike D'Antoni said.

Monte Morris had 19 points for the Nuggets, who have lost their last eight meetings with Houston. Gary Harris and Jamal Murray added 15 points apiece.

A step-back shot by Murray got Denver within four points midway through the fourth quarter but Harden went on a tear, scoring 11 straight Houston points to put the Rockets up 104-91 with 3:48 remaining.

Fiery Green suspended after argument with KD

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The Golden State Warriors don't expect Draymond Green's latest dustup with Kevin Durant to become a long-term issue for the two-time defending NBA champions.

Nor do they expect the emotional Green to change after his one-game suspension by the team Tuesday.

Durant said he expects to work things out with Green, saying, "I'm sure it will, we've got a long season ahead."

"His presence has been a part of this team for a while, even before I got here he'd been a huge staple in this organization," Durant said. "Obviously it's definitely weird not having him around and everything that went down. But that's what happens, (stuff) happens in the NBA."

Green was suspended one game without pay for conduct detrimental to the team following an altercation a night earlier with Durant, though general manager Bob Myers declined to offer specifics on the All-Star forward's behavior that was considered going too far. Myers and Steve Kerr collaborated on the decision.

"We just felt like this rose to the level of acting the way we did," Myers said, noting of Green: "He was professional. He loves to play basketball, which is all you can ask of him."

The Warriors made the announcement about four hours before they were set to host Atlanta, and the 28-year-old Green was serving the suspension as his teammates beat the Hawks 110-103. He wasn't at Oracle Arena and didn't immediately respond to a text message seeking comment.

"I think we'll be fine," Kerr said. "We're a team that goes through stuff, just like everybody else. And things happen, bumps in the road. You've got to move forward. It's all part of coaching a team, it's all part of being on a team. You have to get through the adversity and there are some difficult times and you just get through them."

In the closing seconds of regulation during Monday's 121-116 overtime loss on the road to the Clippers, Green secured a rebound and, with Durant calling for the ball, instead dribbled the length of the court into traffic and lost control as the Warriors failed to get a shot off. Durant was shown on camera visibly upset immediately afterward.

Then, back on the bench waiting for the extra period to begin, the two traded words and gestured with Klay Thompson seated between them and Andre Iguodala, DeMarcus Cousins and others trying to calm the situation.

Durant wouldn't get into the specifics of what was said.

"I'm going to keep that in house, that's what we do here. I'm not trying to give nobody no headlines," Durant said. "What happened, happened. We're trying to move on, we're just trying to play basketball."

For everyone who figures this franchise is perfect, Myers quickly cleared up that notion.

"It's hard to win a championship. You can't allow anything else in your locker room, in the narrative. This team has done a good job of that," Myers said. "I know it may appear as if it's looked easy over the last however many years. It's not. If you're in our locker room, if you're in our organization, it's hard."

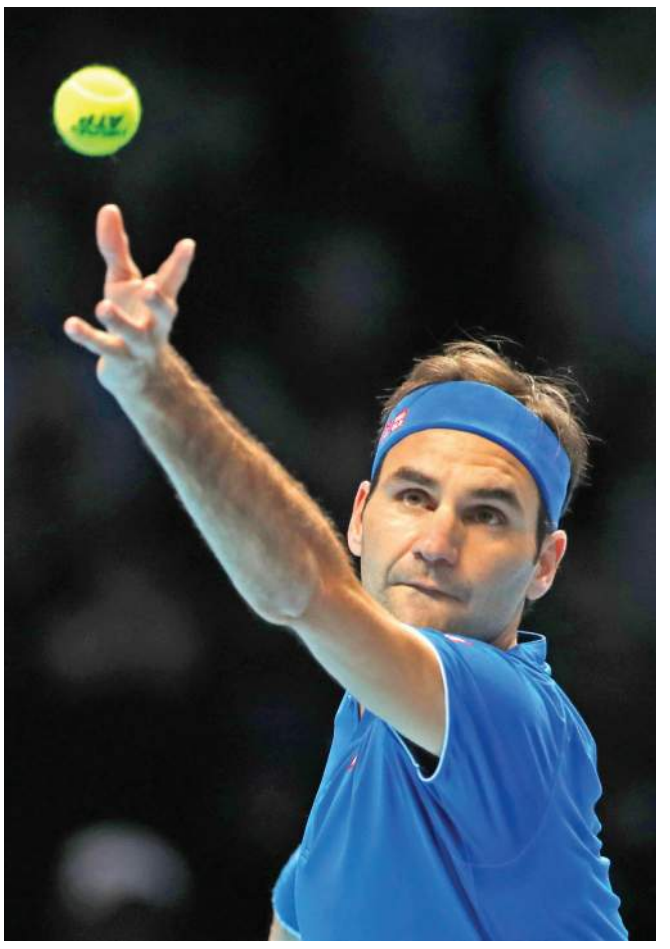
Federer beats Thiem to get back on track

LONDON (AP)—Sometimes no practice makes perfect—for Roger Federer anyway.

After cancelling his training session a day earlier, Federer produced a much-improved performance to get his campaign for a seventh ATP Finals title back on track with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Dominic Thiem on Tuesday.

Having lost his opening round-robin match to Kei Nishikori, the 20-time Grand Slam champion was still some way from his fluent best but dropped just six points on serve and took advantage of a wayward display from Thiem to break twice in both sets.

"(It) was not about my forehand or my backhand or my serve or anything," Federer said. "I guess it was my head. For that sometimes you need a break."



AP

Roger Federer of Switzerland serves to Dominic Thiem of Austria during their ATP World Tour Finals men's singles tennis match at the O2 arena in London, Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018.

With a 1-1 record in round-robin play, Federer will likely need to defeat Kevin Anderson on Thursday to improve his 14-1 record of reaching the semifinals at the season-ending tournament.

It will be a repeat of a dramatic Wimbledon quarterfinal earlier this season, in which Anderson came from match point down in the third set to win in five on his route to the final.

"I'm happy I'm getting a chance to play him again and have a rematch," Federer said. "Hopefully I can take my revenge. It was a great match but obviously one that hurt."

Anderson thrashed Nishikori 6-0, 6-1 earlier Tuesday to move to 2-0, with the lopsided scoreline all but assuring the South African debutant's place in the last four.

Thiem is facing an opening-round exit at the O2 Arena for a third straight season and will need to defeat Nishikori in straight sets to have any chance of progressing.

"I really want to play a good match," Thiem said. "Doesn't matter if it's the last one here or not."

As had been the case in both players' opening-match losses on Sunday, unforced errors flowed early on. While Federer was able to compensate with his serve, Thiem was left exposed.

The Austrian's forehand gifted Federer a break for a 2-1 lead and then his volley came up short to help the Swiss star extend that advantage to 5-2.

Federer, who is chasing a 100th ATP Tour title, started to play more relaxed and seemed content with simply keeping the ball in play and waiting for mistakes. It worked, as another forehand mistake from Thiem put Federer in complete control in the second set.

A Federer backhand up the line set up match point and Thiem's 34th unforced error —another volley into the net— ended the day's second one-sided contest.

"I didn't feel good out there," Thiem said. "I was playing very, very bad. Many unusual mistakes."

The 32-year-old Anderson, who lost just eight points on serve, was on the verge of completing just the second whitewash in the competition's history until Nishikori won the penultimate game.

"Among the best I've played," Anderson said. "I think I did a really good job constantly applying the pressure and not letting up."

CAROL

From Page 24

duel the winners in the match between Jenna Defalco/Madison Sieg of the U.S and Mexican wild card entries Ximena Cano and Karen Verduzco. Sieg and Defalco got a free pass to the second round after a win via walkover against No. 1 seed Marta Custic of Spain and China's Qinwen Zhang. Cano and Verduzco, on the other hand, played an extended game before ousting Croatia's Antea Mandic and compatriot Dianela Rodriguez. The Mexican duo took the first set, 6-1, but missed a sweep when Mandic and Rodriguez bounced back in the second, 6-4. Then in the super-tiebreaker third set, the Mexican tandem pulled off a 10-8 win.

Meanwhile, Lee's doubles victory made up for her early exit in the singles play. The 16-year-old was in the lower half of the 64-player and had a heartbreaker in the first round, losing to Mexico's Ingrid Carolina Millan and three sets last Monday. Millan drew first blood, 6-3, but was denied the sweep when Lee mustered a 6-2 triumph in the second set to extend the match. Then in the deciding third set, the opposing players went back and fourth with Millan pulling off a 7-6 (4) win.

The ongoing Copa is a Grade 1 event, which offers 280 ranking points to the singles champion and 210 to the doubles winners. After completing the high-ranking event, Lee will remain in Mexico to play in the Mundial Juvenil Yucatan HSBC FMT at the Club Campestre de Yucatán Calle in Merida. Her second competition in the Central America country will run from Nov. 19 to 25 and is a Grade A event, giving 500 points to the singles winner and 375 to the doubles champions.

PACIFIC

From Page 24

tion provider, including specific items and services required for accommodation under the Pacific Games Charter and room rates," the Samoa local organizers said in a statement,

"STA have worked together with SHA to finalize room rates based on triple share occupancy for hotels with breakfast included. In signing the MoA, hotels are expected to commit 100 percent occupancy of their property for the Pacific Games period," the statement added.

Samoa organizers are giving the CNMI and other countries competing in next year's event until December to determine their delegates (by numbers only in every sport). The Mariana Islands Basketball Federation, had earlier announced it won't send men's and women's teams (5x5), citing financial challenges, but it may field squads in the 3x3. Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association may also pass up on the Pacific Games (indoor and beach) after Saipan was hit by Super Typhoon Yutu late last month.

With NMIVA and MIBF out, it's now up to baseball, canoe, athletics, tennis, sailing, swimming, weightlifting, and rugby 7's to represent the Commonwealth to the Pacific Games. These sports had earlier expressed interest in sending delegates to Samoa and may have to reaffirm their commitment in next month's Northern Marianas Sports Association meeting. NMSA missed its November assembly, as Saipan has been focusing on the recovery efforts after Yutu slammed the island and Tinian.

Chiefs-Rams game moved from Mexico City to LA due to field

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The NFL moved the Rams' Monday night showdown with the Kansas City Chiefs from Mexico City to Los Angeles on Tuesday due to the poor condition of the field at Azteca Stadium.

The league announced the extraordinary decision six days before one of the most-anticipated regular-season games of the year.

In a news release, the league said it determined that the recently re-sodded field at Mexico City's historic stadium "does not meet NFL standards for playability and consistency, and will not meet those standards by next Monday."

The Rams (9-1) will host the Chiefs (9-1) at the Coliseum instead. The much-anticipated game is just the fifth meeting since 1970 between teams with one or fewer losses in Week 11 or later.

The decision creates a morass of logistical concerns for the teams and fans traveling to Mexico, and it disappoints thousands of Mexican fans eager to see a marquee matchup in North America's most populous city. But the league consulted with the players' association and local officials before deciding it couldn't risk the players' health on a damaged field.

"The combination of a difficult rainy season and a heavy multi-event calendar of events at the stadium have resulted in significant damage to the field that presents unnecessary risks to player safety and makes it unsuitable to host an NFL game," said Mark Waller, the NFL's executive vice president of international. "As a result, we have determined that moving the game is the right decision, and one that we needed to announce now in order to allow our teams and fans to make alternate arrangements."

Azteca officials changed the playing surface from natural grass to a hybrid in May, but the turf hasn't been ideal for several months. Concern about the field grew in recent days when aerial photos of the stadium showed serious damage to the grass, particularly on the end of the stadium recently used for a major concert.

Cruz Azul, the Liga MX soccer club that shares the stadium with Club America, played a tournament game on the field last Saturday in noticeably poor conditions. Coach Pedro Caixinha expressed concern, and the NFL continued working with groundskeepers to improve the field.

"The long and unusual rain season, as well as the calendar of events with third parties in Estadio Azteca, might be a factor for the grass to be far from optimal conditions," Azteca Stadium authorities said in a press release.

The Rams are required to keep the Coliseum available as a backup in case of a problem with international games. They immediately announced plans for ticket sales starting Wednesday, with season ticket holders allowed to buy their own seats and up to four more.

The Rams also will give away thousands of seats to first responders and people affected by recent tragedies in Southern California. Deadly wildfires have ravaged several areas near the Rams' training complex in Thousand Oaks for the past week, and 12 people were killed in a mass shooting in Thousand Oaks last Wednesday night.

REGISTRATION

From Page 24

"Thirty years of Tagaman is just incredible and speaks to the endurance of this premier event as the longest-running triathlon in Micronesia," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We have to give a lot of credit to the founders of the race and the other members of Taga Inc. for seeing the great potential of this event all those years ago and organizing it for the first successful 25 years. Now we are injecting new blood into the event through the MVA's close partnership with TRAC, and we see it slowly making a comeback to its glory days at the peak of visitor arrivals to The Marianas. Tagaman has been a key event in promoting The Marianas as an ideal sports destination, and we anticipate it will continue to do so for years to come. We invite all triathletes and teams who have not yet experienced this beautiful course to take the challenge in 2019," Concepcion added.

With its 2K swim, 60K bike, and 1.5K bike courses, Tagaman is named after the ancient indigenous Chamorro chief Taga, renowned for his legendary feats of strength. Tagaman welcomes athletes of all levels and ages. The starting point and swim leg will be at Kanoa Resort. Bikers will then transition at Kilili Pavilion parking lot in Susupe, head south to Airport Road and north to Banzai Cliff before going back south to Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe for the finish line.

"This 30th Tagaman Triathlon will be a reunion of sort. We will revisit some sights and sounds of the first triathlon that was introduced some years ago," TRAC president Ricky Castro said.

Cash prizes await the Top 3 finishers in the women's and men's open categories: $1,000 for first place, $700 for second, and $500 for third. Medals will be awarded to the age group divisions, team and individual finishers respectively.

Beginning Jan. 1, the registration fees will be $120/solo and $200/relay team, while rates will again increase on Mar. 1 to $150/solo and $240/relay team. The last day to register is Mar. 28.

Early sponsors for the 30th Tagaman Triathlon are Kanoa Resort Saipan as the official hotel, Neo System as the official timer, KFC Triathlon Club of Japan, and Tri Tour of Korea. Tagaman race series events to prepare for the main event will be announced in the coming months. ***(MVA)***

Durant leads undermanned Warriors past Hawks

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

KAN PACIFIC POOL CLOSED

Carol survives doubles opener

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee is still in contention in the doubles event in the Copa Mundial Campeche FMT being held at the the Campeche Country Club in Campeche, Mexico.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee made the grade in the opening round of the doubles event of the Copa Mundial Campeche FMT.

Lee partnered with Ukraine's Viktoriya Petrenko and the unranked pair needed only two sets to eliminate Mexico's Ana Paula Chavez Sanchez and Fatima Yareli Gutierrez Martinez, 6-2, 6-2, yesterday at the Campeche Country Club in Campeche, Mexico. The Commonwealth player and her Ukrainian teammate are in the upper half of the 32-team draw and will be tested against a seeded duo in the second round.

Lee and Petrenko will challenge No. 5 Elen Louka of Cyprus and Burundi's Sada Nahimana, who had a tougher win in the opener to remain in contention. Louka and Sada eked out a 7-5 triumph in the first set over the unseeded pair of Marian Fernanda Campos of Mexico and Canada's Ashley Chang. Then in the second set, the Cyprus Burundi also labored through a 7-6 (3) victory against Chang and Campos to set up a Round 2 date with Lee and Petrenko.

If Lee and Petrenko prevail anew today, they will barge into the quarterfinals and will

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Registration on for Tagaman Triathlon

Bikers cruise along scenic Marpi during the 2018 Tagaman Triatlon.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

Pacific Games delegates' accommodation in hotels OK'd

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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A memorandum of agreement between the Pacific Games Office and Accommodation Providers and the Samoa Tourism Authority was signed last Tuesday, ensuring enough rooms for athletes and officials participating in the 2019 Pacific Games.

Over 4,000 delegates are expected to travel to Samoa for the quadrennial meet that will run from July 7 to 20. They will be housed in various hotels under the Samoa Hotel Association in Apia, Upolu, and Savaii.

"The event marks a milestone in arranging accommodation for athletes and officials for next year's XVI Pacific Games. In signing the MoA, accommodation providers confirm their commitment to solely accommodate participants of the Pacific Games next July. The MoA also outlines the hosting commitments of the accommoda-

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PACIFIC GAMES SAMOA PHOTO
Pacific Games Office and Accommodation Providers and the Samoa Tourism Authority members and officials pose for a photo after signing a memorandum of agreement for the accommodation of delegates to the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia.

Marking 30 years of existence, the Tagaman Ttriathlon is slated for March 30, 2019, on the island of Saipan in The Marianas.

Registration is available online at www.saipantriathlon.com or www.webscorer.com by searching the event name or Race ID 148748. The early bird registration fee through Dec. 31 is $80/solo and $180/team.

Tagaman is an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority aimed at attracting visiting athletes and media to the tropical shores of The Marianas. The event is co-organized by the MVA and Triathlon Association of the CNMI.

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